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EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE

CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND.

1677-1711.

1880

No. 74.

ALEXANDER HARRIS, F.S.A. SCOT.

Convention of the royal burghs of Scotland.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE

CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND,

1677–1711.

Published for the Convention of Royal Burghs
BY
WILLIAM PATERSON, EDINBURGH.

MDCCCLXXX.

PREFACE.

THE publication of the Records of the Convention of Burghs is continued in this volume from 3d July 1677 to 14th April 1711, a period of nearly thirty-four years.

Among the subjects which occupied the attention of the Convention during that period, the communication of freedom of trade to burghs of regality and barony held a prominent place. Previous to the passing of the Act 1672, c. 5, royal and free burghs had immemorially enjoyed the exclusive privilege of trade, and its communication to other burghs was complained of, not only as an interference with vested interests, but also as unfair in itself, inasmuch as royal and free burghs were bound to contribute to public taxation to which burghs of regality and barony were not subject. Through the persistent action of the Convention the privileges of the royal and free burghs were, to a large extent, restored by the passing of the Act 1690, c. 15; and in the same year the Convention empowered a committee to adopt such means as might best secure the putting of the latter act into execution, and also to appoint visitations of the whole royal burghs, with a view to ascertain authoritatively the condition, trade, and common good of each. Negotiations were thereupon opened with the burghs of regality and barony, and each was invited to appoint a representative to meet with the committee of the Convention on a specified day, and endeavour to effect an amicable arrangement. The provosts of Ayr and Dumbarton were appointed to visit the burghs north of the Forth, the provost of Perth and one of the bailies of Aberdeen the burghs south of the

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Forth, and the four visitors the burgh of Edinburgh. Instructions for their guidance were forthwith prepared and delivered to the visitors, but the indisposition of one of them prevented the visitation from being proceeded with at the time originally fixed. On 9th July 1691, however, the Convention appointed the commissioners for Ayr and Dumbarton to visit the burghs north of the Forth, and the commissioners for Dundee and Aberdeen the burghs south of the Forth, and furnished them with revised instructions. The object of this visitation was declared to have reference to the adjustment of the tax-roll, according to which the quota and proportion of burdens falling upon the several royal burghs should be allocated, and the only burghs excepted from it were Kirkwall, Wick, Inveraray, and Rothesay,[1] "because of the difficulty of access to these places." The report of the visitors was submitted to the Convention at its meeting in Dundee on 14th July 1692, when it was appointed to be sealed with the public seal of that burgh, and deposited with the clerk, to be forthcoming for the use of the royal burghs whenever called for. Subsequently, on 6th July 1698, the Convention having considered whether it would not be for the interest of the royal burghs that a true stated account of their whole common good should be recorded in the burgh register, to the end that no dilapidation might be made of any part thereof in prejudice of the burghs, appointed in lieu thereof, that the reports of the visitation in 1692 should be recorded in a particular register for that effect. The reports were accordingly recorded in terms of this order, and as they contain much interesting information as to the state of most of the royal burghs at the time of the visitation, they are printed in full in Appendix No. II.

The negotiations between the royal burghs and the burghs of regality and barony are described at length in the Minutes of Convention, in various Acts of Parliament,—especially the Acts 1693, c. 51; 1698, c. 38; and 1698, c. 39,—and in the report of the Royal Commission constituted under the act last referred to, as the same is printed in the Appendix to

[1] A note appended to the register states that Wick, Dornoch, Kirkwall, Bervie, and Galloway were not visited. There is, however, a report with reference to Rothesay.

the tenth volume of the Record Edition of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland. The relief obtained by the royal burghs ultimately from the burghs of regality and barony in return for their being permitted to participate in the privilege of trade, proved exceedingly small. The Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Scotland state, in their General Report in 1835, that it had been gradually diminishing, and that it did not much exceed, at the date of their report, a fortieth part of the tax-roll of the burghs.

Next in importance to the subjects above referred to, if we may judge from the space which they occupy in the Minutes of the Convention, are the settlement of the staple port at Campvere, the appointments of the several conservators and factors, and the detailed instructions given to them from time to time. Besides these, frequent references occur to the commercial relations between Scotland and other countries at different times.

While so much of the records of the Convention is occupied, as is most natural, with the decay of the royal burghs, and their struggles with the burghs of regality and barony for the maintenance of the exclusive privileges of trade, it is curious to find so few indications of the national troubles during the reigns of Charles II. and James VII., or of the interference of the Crown with the liberties of the burghs during these reigns, or of the momentous issues of the Revolution of 1688. The Convention, indeed, offered its courtesies to James when he came to Scotland, in 1679, as Duke of York and Commissioner to the Parliament; it tendered him its loyal congratulations in 1685 when he succeeded to the throne on the death of his brother, "in whom," says the address adopted on the occasion, "the latest addressers will alwayes find new vertues to admire, a monarch whom great pouer could not make arbitrarie nor great parts uneasie;" and it despatched Magnus Prince, then the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, to court in 1688, to express "the great joy and gladness" the Convention had for the "unspeakable and ritch blissing of the birth of a young and hopfull Prince," who was afterwards to be known as "The Pretended Prince of Wales," or more shortly, as "The Pretender." The records of the Conven-

tion, which met in November 1688, refer to King James' gracious sentiments to the burghs, and the minutes of the next Convention, in July 1689, refer to William and Mary as king and queen; but not a word occurs to indicate the political changes which had taken place during the interval. So far as these records show, the Convention seems to have accommodated itself as much as possible to the political conditions under which it met from time to time. It cultivated the friendly services of those in authority by frequent pecuniary grants, and its main object appears to have been to promote as best it might the material interests of the burghs themselves, without much regard to anything which did not directly affect these interests. Its first address to King William, on 14th August 1689, no doubt alludes to the "religious and civil concerns" of the burghs, but it does so in a connection which indicates that the redress of the grievance as to the communication of trade to burghs of regality and barony was its inspiring motive—"Whereas," it says, "wee being amongst the first zealous asserters and ouners of your Majesties authority in this kingdom, and does firmly resolve for ourselves and in name of all that we doe represent to mantaine the samen for the futur with our lyves and fortuns, judging our happiness both as to our religious and civill concerns to be inseperable from your Majesties welfar and interest, *and therefor* are incouradged to represent to your Majestie the speciall grivance following lying on our trade."

On 8th July 1696 the Convention resolved, notwithstanding the dissent of several burghs, to become partners to the amount of £3000 in the African and Indian Trade Company,—the Commissioner for Lochmaben, William Menzies, offering that if the dissentient burghs should, previous to 1st August thereafter, intimate to him that they were unwilling to pay their proportions of the amount so subscribed, he would undertake to do so on their transferring their particular shares to him.

The Convention does not seem to have offered a congratulatory address to Queen Anne on her succession to the throne; but at their meeting on 17th October 1702, they adopted certain articles, which they ordered to be submitted to the Commissioners appointed by her Majesty to treat

as to a union between England and Scotland. They also appointed a committee to keep up correspondence with the royal commissioners, "and to give them advyce from tyme to tyme as to what may be for the good of the church and kingdom, and particularly of the trade thereof." At the same time a recommendation was made to the next Convention to consider the necessary charges and expenses of the royal commissioners, "in caice these gentlemen be not *aliunde* considered be the government aither befor or after the said convention." Subsequently, on 8th July 1706, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh was empowered to convene the convention, "in case the great concern of ane union with England comes to be laid befor and considered by the parliament, that the burrows may advise what is fitt to be represented to the parliament as most tending to the advancement of trade, the benefite and priviledges of the burrowes, as well to ease them of the unsupportable burden they lye under." And on 5th November in the same year the Convention adopted an address to parliament against the articles of union then under consideration. The act ratifying and approving the union was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 16th January, and by the English Parliament on 6th March, 1707, and on 10th July thereafter the Convention appointed a Committee to take such steps as they might consider "conducive to the advancement, encouragement and security of the trade of this northern part of Great Britain." Subsequently the Convention held a special meeting on 26th November, and adopted various overtures, which were submitted to parliament. A similar course was followed at various meetings of the Convention in after years.

This volume, it will be observed, has been edited in the same way as the last one. The sederunt of each convention, particular or general, has been given in full. The more important acts are also printed *verbatim*, while as regards formal and less important minutes, the object of the editor has been to economise space by giving a simple abstract of each act in smaller type.

In the preface to the immediately preceding volume, it was explained that the records of the Convention for the period between 1631 and 1649

have unfortunately disappeared, but that subsequently to the completion of the printing of that volume, an abstract of the more important acts of the Convention from 1552 till 1700 had been discovered. This abstract, it was stated, was prepared by order of the Convention, and was submitted to it in July 1700; and it was added that so much as was required to maintain the continuity of the record would be printed in the present volume. In fulfilment of that promise, the Abstract of the Acts of Convention between 1631 and 1649 is now given as Appendix No. I.

Considerable progress has been made in the preparation of the MS. for another volume, which, if completed, would probably bring down the publication to a period subsequent to the rebellion in 1745. It remains for the Convention to decide whether they will complete the work which they have carried thus far.

J. D. MARWICK.

2 Great Western Terrace,
Glasgow, *February* 1880.

TABLE OF THE CONTENTS.

Date of Convention.		PAGE
1677. July	3-5. General Convention at Edinburgh [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. vi., p. 345]. . .	1
„ Nov.	22. Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 352] .	7
1678. June	20-July 9. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 353] .	7
1679. July	1-4. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 358] .	11
„ Nov.	18-Dec. 3. Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 362]	15
1680. April	6. Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 366] .	18
„ July	6-8. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 368] .	20
1681. July	25-Sept. 19. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 374]	24
1682. July	4-7. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 379] .	30
1683. July	3-6. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 386] .	39
1684. July	1-4. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 393] .	43
1685. April	16-May 4. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 399]	45
„ July	7-10. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 403] .	55
1686. April	13-15. Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 407] .	58
„ „	27-May 17. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 410]	62
„ July	6-8. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 412] .	64
1687. July	5-9. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 418] .	68
1688. July	3-7. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 427] .	73
„ Nov.	6-10. Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. vii. p. 1] . . .	81
1689. July	2-19. General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 7] .	88
„ Aug.	13-15. Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 17] .	99

Date of Convention.		PAGE
1690. Mar. 26-27.	Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. vii. p. 19]	103
	Commission in favour of Andrew Kennedy, Conservator, 1 Nov. 1689 [*Ib.* p. 21]	106
1690. April 22-June 11.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 23]	109
„ July 1-15.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 26]	113
„ Nov. 19-Dec. 4.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 36]	122
1691. July 7-17.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 40]	128
„ Oct. 20-23.	Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 55]	145
1692. Feb. 3-12.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 58]	147
„ July 5-15.	General Convention at Dundee [*Ib.* p. 62]	152
„ Aug. 24.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 87]	175
1693. July 4-7.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 89]	176
„ Nov. 28.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 107]	187
1694. July 3-6.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 110]	189
1695. July 2-22.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 120]	196
„ Dec. 3-4.	Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 130]	205
1696. April 23.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 132]	206
„ July 7-9.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 134]	207
„ Oct. 15.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 143]	216
1697. March 24.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 162]	225
„ July 6-13.	General Convention at Perth [*Ib.* p. 166]	228
„ „ 22.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 184]	242
„ Nov. 11-19.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 187]	247
„ Dec. 17.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 198]	255
„ „ 20.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 199]	256
1698. March 1.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 201]	259
„ July 5-9.	General Convention at Aberdeen [*Ib.* p. 205]	263
1699. Feb. 7-10.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 222]	273
„ July 4-13.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 228]	279
„ Aug. 10.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 245]	288

Date of Convention.		PAGE
1699. Aug. 15.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. vii. p. 245] . .	290
	Contract between the Magistrates of Forres and the Sheriff of Moray, 20 February 1696 [*Ib.* p. 247]	291
1700. July 2-9.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 255] .	296
	Contract and Agreement between the burghs of Glasgow and Dumbarton, 1700 [*Ib.* p. 278] .	307
1701. July 1-9.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 282] .	313
1702. Jan. 8-16.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 291] .	320
„ Jan. 22-Feb. 17.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 302]	330
„ April 7.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 305] .	333
„ July 7-20.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 306] .	334
„ Oct. 16-17.	Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 318] .	342
1703. August 3-5.	General Convention at Glasgow [*Ib.* p. 320] .	344
„ August 12.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 333]	350
„ Nov. 30.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 335] .	350
	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 338]	353
1704. Feb. 19.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 339]	353
„ July 4.	General Convention at Glasgow [*Ib.* p. 341] .	353
1705. Jan. 8.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 352]	358
„ Feb. 5.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 354]	359
„ March 1.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 355]	360
„ June 7-12.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 356]	360
	Her Majesty's Letter to the Royal Burghs, 26 July 1703 [*Ib.* p. 358]	363
	Acts of the Town Council of Dumfries as to admission of a clerk, 6th March and 10th April 1704 [*Ib.* p. 358]	364
1705. July 3-13.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. viii., p. 1] . . .	367

Date of Convention.		PAGE
1705. July 3-13.	Contract and Agreement between the Town Council and the Trades of Banff, 8 October 1680 [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. viii., p. 9] . .	375
	Her Majesty's Letter to the Royal Burghs, 7 April 1705 [*Ib.* p. 11]	378
1705. Aug. 2.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 12] .	379
„ Sept. 6-10.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 13] .	380
„ Dec. 6-21.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 14] .	380
1706. Feb. 7-9.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 18] .	382
„ Feb. 20.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 19] .	385
„ July 2-8.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 21] .	385
„ Oct. 29-Nov. 7.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 36] .	399
1707. Jan. 25.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 39] .	402
„ July 1-10.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 39] .	403
„ July 17.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 51] .	415
„ July 24.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 52] .	415
„ Aug. 5.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 54] .	419
„ Sept. 1.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 55] .	420
„ Sept. 1.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 55] .	420
„ Sept. 2.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 57] .	423
„ Oct. 8-9.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 58] .	423
„ Oct. 23.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 59] .	425
„ Nov. 18-27.	Particular Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 60] .	427
„ Dec. 24-26.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 66] .	437
1708. Feb. 5.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 67] .	438
„ Feb. 10.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 69] .	441
„ March 2.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 70] .	442
„ April 29.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 72] .	445
„ May 14-17.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 73] .	446
„ July 6-15.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 76] .	451
„ Nov. 6.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 93] .	469
„ Dec. 1-4.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 94] .	470

Date of Convention.		PAGE
1709. April 12.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. viii., p. 100] . .	478
„ May 9.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 101]	479
„ July 5-12.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 102] .	480
	Sett of the Burgh of Tain, 18 August 1708 [*Ib.* p. 113]	493
„ July 14-18.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 114]	494
1710. Jan. 26.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 117]	496
„ Feb. 2.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 118]	497
„ Feb. 4.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 118]	497
„ Feb. 28.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 119]	498
„ March 4.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 120]	499
„ July 4-10.	General Convention at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 121] .	501
„ July 11-27.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 130]	507
„ Nov. 13.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh [*Ib.* p. 132]	509
1711. April 6-14.	Meeting of Committee at Edinburgh; and Memorial, Address, and Letters, therein referred to [*Ib.* p. 132]	510

APPENDIX.

	PAGE
I. Abstract of Acts of Convention between 1631 and 1649 [*MS. "Compend of the Acts, Statuts and Constitutions of the Generall and Particular Conventions," preserved amongst the Records of the Convention*, pp. 134-82]	525
II. Decreet of Set of the Burgh of Inverness, 1676 [*MS. Convention Records*, vol. vii., p. 100]	559
III. Register containeing the State and Condition of every Burgh within the Kingdome of Scotland, in the year 1692. [*MS. Register, preserved amongst the Records of the Convention*] . .	563
Burgh of Edinburgh	565
„ Perth	568
„ Dundee	571

APPENDIX III.—*continued.*

	PAGE
Burgh of Aberdeen	574
„ Stirling	576
„ Linlithgow	578
„ St Andrews	580
„ Glasgow	581
„ Ayr	585
„ Haddington	590
„ Dysart	592
„ Kirkcaldy	593
„ Montrose	596
„ Cupar	599
„ Anstruther Easter	600
„ Dumfries	601
„ Inverness	604
„ Bruntisland	606
„ Inverkeithing	607
„ Kinghorn	608
„ Brichen	609
„ Irvine	612
„ Jedburgh	614
„ Kirkcudbright	616
„ Wigtown	618
„ Pittenweem	619
„ Dunfermline	622
„ Anstruther Wester	624
„ Selkirk	625
„ Dumbarton	626
„ Renfrew	628
„ Dunbar	630
„ Lanark	631
„ Aberbrothock	633

APPENDIX III.—*continued.*

	PAGE
Burgh of Elgin	634
„ Peebles	636
„ Crail	638
„ Tain	640
„ Banff	642
„ Culross	644
„ Whithorn	644
„ Forfar	646
„ Rothesay	648
„ Nairn	649
„ Forres	650
„ Rutherglen	650
„ North Berwick	651
„ Cullen	652
„ Lauder	654
„ Kilrenny	655
„ Annan	655
„ Lochmaben	657
„ Sanquhar	658
„ Dingwall	659
„ Queensferry	660
„ Fortrose	662
„ Kintoir	665
„ Innerurie	665
„ Stanraer	666
„ Wick	667
„ Dornock	667
„ Kirkwall	667
„ Bervie	667
„ Galloway	667

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS

OF THE

CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL BURGHS OF SCOTLAND.

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1677. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH, Francis Kinloch, William Hamiltoun; Perth, James Shioch; Dundie, Alexander Wedderburn; Aberdeen, Alexander Burnett; Stirling, Robert Russell; Linlithgow, Robert Milne; St Andros, James Nairne; Glasgow, James Campble; Air, Robert Doock; Haddingtoun, John Sleich; Dysarte, George Sinclair; Kirkcaldie, John Fergusone; Monross, Robert Rennald; Couper, George Mansone; Anstruther Eister, James Lawsone; Innerness, Robert Barbor; Bruntilland, Robert Hoggan; Innerkeithing, Robert Baird; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce; Brichen, David Donaldsone; Jedburgh, John Rutherfoord; Pittinweem, John Cook; Dunfermling, Robert Walwood; Rhenfrew, Peter Patersone; Dunbar, James Kellie; Lanerk, William Tueddell; Elgin, John Ogilvie; Peibles, Gawen Thomsone; Carraill, William Moncreiff; Culross, John Heliday; Bamff, George Gordoun; Whithorne, John M'Kie; Forfar, John Carnegie; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Cullen, James Ogilvie; Sancquher, Robert Carmichaell; Queensferry, Archibald Wilsone. [Twenty-eight burghs *blank*].

3 July 1677.

1. Sir William Binning, provost of Edinburgh, elected moderator. Moderator.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1677.

4 July 1677.

Commissions. 2. Approved of report by the committee for revising the commissions.

Ratification, agent. 3. Ratified the 9th act of last particular convention "anent the election and admission of Heugh Wallace their agent and procuratour in all their affairs during their pleasure."

Ratification of acts. 4. Ratified and approved of all acts made in last particular convention, and especially the fifth act as to the impost in France.

5 July 1677.

Innernes. 5. The comissioners of burrows that wer appoynted by the last generall convention to repaire to the burgh of Innerness for composeing of all differences betuixt the magistratts, councill, and inhabitants of the said burgh, and they haveing made their reporte anent the finall agreement betuixt these discontented pairties anent the election of their magistratts and councill of the said burgh and government thereof in all tyme coming, and did produce ane extract of ane decreit ordaining them to keep the same ordour in all tyme coming inviolably, for which the present convention gave them many thanks; and ordains the expenses of the comissioners who went there to be payed to them be the agent.

Master of conserjarie hous. 6. The convention admitted Robert Kyll, merchant, induellar in Leith, to be master of the conserjarie house at Campheer during their pleasure.

Unlaws dispensed with. 7. The convention having received reasonable excuses from Forres, Arbroath, Dumfreis, and Dumbarton, dispensed with any unlaw imposed on these burghs for absence from this convention.

Jedburgh. 8. The convention refused to exempt the burgh of Jedburgh from attending conventions. "Approved of ane act of their toun councill anent borrowing of money from their nighbours and outland gentlemen for defraying of their publict debts and other necessar charges upon the publict securitie of the said burgh."

General post. 9. The convention admitted George Moncur to be general post during his brother's "seiknes and distemper and in case of not recoverie in all tyme coming during their pleasure."

Particular convention. 10. Appointed a particular convention to be held "vpon advertisement from the provost of the said burgh upon whatsomevir emergent business may concerne the burrows."

Inverness. 11. Ratified and approved the decreet arbitral of the commissioners sent to Inverness for composing the differences between the magistrates, council, and inhabitants of that burgh.

12. The convention statuts and ordanis the conservators dewes to be as followis, viz. :— EDINBURGH. 5 July 1677. Conservators dewes.

Here follows table containing the same dues as in the 15th act of the particular convention held in October 1676. The sacks to contain as follows :— plaiding and fingrahms, 1200 double ells, and ilk 100 to contain 120 double elns ; kerseyes and galloway whytt, 600 double elns ; stockings for men and women, 120 dozen ; wooll and linning yairne, 600 weight ; goatt and buck skins, 600 skins at 6 score the hundred ; heart hyds, 20 daiker ; salmond, ten barrell ; herrings, butter, pork, beiff or tallow, 12 barrels ; fethers, 1200 weight ; boot hose, 60 duzon.

13. The convention considdering that it tends greatly to the prejudice and defraud of the staple that Dutchmen and other strangers should buy staple comodities within the kingdome and transporte them to any pairt within the sevinteen provinces and not to carie them to the staple porte at Campheer, wherby not only strangers, bot also Scottsmen as being imployed and under the cullor of strangers, may transporte staple comodities to other places within the sevinteen provinces then to the staple porte, to the prejudice of Scotts merchands who keeps the staple porte, and to ouerthrow of the said staple itself, therefor the convention statuts and ordanis that whensoevir any Dutchmen or other strangers or any having comission from them shall happen to buy any staple goods that they shall be oblidged to carie the same to the staple porte in case they transporte the same to any place within the sevinteen provinces ; and recomends to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundie, Linlithgow to mak ane adress to the lords of the secreit councill for approbation of this act if neid beis. Staple port.

14. The convention, for the better regulation of factors in thair duetie at Campheer, ordanis that they shall be oblidged if they employ any broker to sell the merchands goods that they shall pay the brocker fie out of their factor fee ; item, that the factors are oblidged according to old use and wont to rebate only fyve per cent for reddie money for plaiding, and for skinns tuo and a half, and this abatement being given the factor is to give the merchand reddie money ; item, it shall be free to the merchant to take his plaiding and fingrain that hes lyne besyde the factor ane yeire and sex weeks, as lykways salmond and other goods that hes lyne besyde the factor according to the appoynted tyme, and therefter to transporte them to any place where he pleases, and that without payment of factor fee ; item, that no factor shall at any tyme herefter be a member of the conservators court. Factors.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1677.

Staple port, articles of agreement.

15. The convention haveing considdered and compaired the differences betuixt the agreement with the toun of Campheer anent the staple approven by his Majestie and signed be the provest of Edinburgh be ordour of the burrows and that agreement of the toun of Campheer subscrivit be the magistratts, they find that they are allmost one and the same vpon the matter excepting the particulars following which the conservator by thir presentis undertakes to procure ane oblidgment from the magistratts of Campheer for that effect betuixt and the (*blank*) day of (*blank*),— viz., that the toun of Campheer shall oblidge themselfs to discharge that pairt of the agreement which makes lead, lead ur and salt to be staple comodities, and that they shall declaire that if any shipp shall aryve within their road being loadned partlie with staple comodities and other merchandice that it shall be leisum to the merchand to breck bulk and land what comodities he pleases and goe away with the remainder to any pairt without the sevinteen provinces free from payment of any duetie whatsomevir; and the convention declairs that aftir the conservator hes procured the toun of Campheers oblidgment for the saids tuo particulars that they are fullie satisfied with the said agreement subscrivit be the magistratts of Campheer, and conforme to the articles of the said agreement the convention declares that the staple port as it is now settled at Campheer does not only extend to the sevin provinces bot to the haill sevinteen provinces of the Netherlands conforme to antient custom and to the kings patent in favors of the present conservator, and appoynts the comissioners of this convention that they intimate so much to thair haill respective burghs that they prettend no ignorance.

Campheer, imposts.

16. The convention recomends to the conservator that no new impost be put upon goods by the toun of Campheer, and particularly that the late impost of tuell stivers upon the barrell of soap payed by Scotts merchants who bought not the same at the toun of Campheer be discharged.

Letter to Campheer.

17. The convention ordains their generall clerk, with advice of the lord provest of Edinburgh, to draw ane letter to be direct to the toun of Campheer in ansuer to theirs direct to the convention of burrows.

Supplication, merchands, conservator.

18. Anent the supplication given in to the present convention be Robert Turnble, George Clerk, and other merchands, for themselfs and others merchands trafficqueing in the united provinces in the Low Cuntries, complaining that Henry Wilkie, now present conservator, hes

charged them with lettres of horning for transporting thair comodities by the staple porte at Campheer, and sieing there is nether conservator nor his deput, nether factors for receaveing of their comodities and for advanceing them money for doeing their lawfull affairs, neither ane master of the conserjarie hous for their reception at bed and dyett, that thairfor the present convention wold dischairge the said conservator for doeing any furder diligence against [them] untill these and other defects be redressed. The present convention taking the same to consideration they hereby dischairge the conservator to putt the said horning to furder execution for byganes, without prejudice to the said conservator to putt the charges of horning that he hes given against all persons that reseeds not within free royall burghs to execution with all rigour both for byganes and in tyme coming. EDINBURGH. 5 July 1677. Supplication merchands, conservator.

19. The convention empowered Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Linlithgow, Queensferry, or any three of them, to meet at any time to admit factors for the nation at the staple port. Factors.

19*a*. Allowed to Henry Wilkie, present conservator, £200 sterling, in consideration of his great pains and charges in procuring the establishment of the staple port at Campheer. Conservator £200.

20. The convention appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, Linlithgow, Dysart, Glasgow, Air, Bamff, and Queensferry, "to meet at Edinburgh to goe in companie to waitt upon the arrivall of his grace the Duke of Lauderdale." Duke of Lauderdale.

21. Anent a supplication given in by Anstruther Eister, representing "their deplorable condition occasioned by povertie and want of tradeing," the convention refused to grant an exemption, but continued the supplication to be a head of next missive. Anstruther Eister.

22. The convention recommended the commissioners of each burgh to desire a voluntary contribution for the harbour of Whitthorne. Whitthorne.

23. Ordained the burghs of Aberdeen and Monross to meet at Aberdeen and determine with regard to the supplication of Bamff, representing "their priviledge for visiting and judgeing of weights and measures within the comon fairs in the shire of Bamff which is now interrupted be the burgh of Cullen in ane hostill maner." Bamff, Cullen.

24. The convention approved of the admission of James Traill, merchant, residing in Holland, to be factor for the nation at the staple port. Traill, factor.

25. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts, extending to £2213, 4s. Scots, and empowered the agent to use all legal diligence for recovering payment of about £2000 "of desperate debts due be the insufficient burrows." Agent, accompts.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1677.

Complents, conservator.

26. The convention takeing to their considderation the information given in be Andrew Skeen, factor at Campheer, against Henrie Wilkie, present conservator, quherby it is represented that the said conservator had medled with the money belonging to the Scotts poore at Campheer by inpignorating some of the samen in his creditors hands for money borrowed, and the said Andrew Skeen hes subscrivit the said information and given his oath thairvpon, and the convention having called befoir them the said conservator he gave in a declaration written with his own hand beiring the maner and way of his medleing with the bands dew to the said poore and absolutly vpon most sever asseverations denyed that he had impignorat any of the saids bands, and to evidence the falsnes and injustnes of that alledgiance, he be thir presentis engadges and oblidges himself to caus deliver these bands to George Mossman, merchand, burges of Edinburgh, for the present in Holland, or in his absence to Thomas Cuningham, merchand in Campheer, and for that effect he shall writte be the first post to Mr Snype, minister at Campheer, who hes the custodie of some of the bands, and to Arnot Cuningham, merchand there, to whom he intrusted the rest of the bands, and to order them to deliver up the haill poores bands as afoirsaid; and in case it shall hereftir evidently appeare that the representatioun made be the said Andrew Skeen against the conservator in the particular foirsaid is grundles and calumnious the convention then declairs that they will inflict such censure against the said Andrew Skeen as the merite of the case requyres; and furder seeing the said Harie Wilkie, conservator, is oblidged by acts of parliament to ansuer to any complents exhibited against him befor the burrowis under the paine of tinsell of his office, therefor he be thir presentis oblidges himself to caus deliver the forsaids bands as afoirsaid and to returne ane certificat that the saids bands are delivered betuixt and the fyfteen day of August next, under the certification that he shall demitt his office as conservator in his Majesties hands.

Conservator deput.

27. The convention considdering that it tends much to the unsetleing of the staple porte at Campheer be the not residence of the conservator or his deputie there and hes given bot too just grund to the merchants not to keep the staple port, therefor to take off the said pretence it is the opinion of the convention that the conservator presently appoynt ane depute to officiat in his absence, and hes recomended to him to

nominate Thomas Cuningham, merchand in Holland, to be conservator depute, and haveing called befor them the said conservtaor, and the preses haveing represented the burrows desire to him anent the nominatioun of the said Thomas Cuningham to be his depute, he heartily condescended thairto; lykeas the said Henrie Wilkie be thir presents nominats and appoynts the said Thomas Cuningham to be conservator deput during his absence from the said staple porte, with pouer to him to act as freely in the said office as conservator as he might doe himself if he wer personalie present. EDINBURGH. 5 July 1677. Conservator deput.

28. Ordained the agent to pay certain sums to macers and others. Payments.

29. Dissolved the present meeting, and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1678. Nixt Convention.

30. Ordained the agent to pay to the Duke of Lauderdale 2000 merks being a year's pension as agent at court, to July 1677. Duke of Lauderdale.

31. Appointed the conformity of the measures within the royal burghs to the standard of Linlithgow to be a head of next missive. Measures.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

22 November 1677. EDINBURGH. 22 November 1677.

The committee appointed by the 19th act of last general convention admitted John Gordoun, younger, son of John Gordoun, merchant in Aberdeen, to be factor for the nation at the staple port of Campheer. Factor at Campheer.

AT INNERNESS, *the eliventh day of September.*

[*A blank is here left in the original record, probably for insertion of the "decreit" mentioned in the 5th act of last general convention.*] Invernes.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH. EDINBURGH. 20 June 1678.

Edinburgh, James Dick, Alexander Reid; Perth, Patrick Hay; Dundie, Alexander Wedderburne; Aberdeen, George Skeen; Stirling, Robert Russell; Linlithgow, Robert Milne; St Andros, John Geddie; Glasgow, James Campbell; Air, Robert Doock; Haddingtoun, William Lamb; Dysarte, George Sympsone; Kirkcaldie, Mathew Andersone; Monross, Mr Robert Tailyor; Couper, George Mansone; Anstruther Eister, James Lawsone; Dumfrees, William Craik; Innerness, Alexander Cuthbert; Bruntisland, James Dewar;

EDINBURGH. 20 June 1678.

Innerkeithing, James Bennett; Kinghorne, John Bruce; Brichen, David Donaldsone; Irwing, John Montgomerie; Jedburgh, James M'Cubbie; Kirkcudbright, William Ewart; Wigtoun, Patrick Stewart; Pittinweem, John Martin; Dumfermling, John Andersone; Selkirk, William Wauch; Dumbartoun, Robert Watsone; Rhenfrew, John Sommervell; Dunbar, James Kello; Lanerk, William Tueddell; Aberbrothock, John Kidd; Elgin, Dauid Stewart; Peibles, Gawen Thomsone; Carraill, George Moncreiff; Bamff, Thomas Ogilvie; Forfar, John Carnegie; Forres, Patrick Tulloch; Rutherglen, Dauid Spence; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Cullen, George Lesly; Annan, David Johnstoun; Lochmaben, John Johnstoun; Sancquher, Robert Carmichell; Queensferry, Archbald Wilsone; Kintoir, Adam Pittindreich; Innerurie, Alexander Forbes; Week, Alexander Mansone; Innerbervie, John Aitoun. [Fifteen burghs *blank.*]

20 June 1678.

Preses. 1. Francis Kinloch, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Commissions. 2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

Lord commissioner. 3. The present convention agrees unanimously to goe and attend the lord commissioner his grace and to offer their humble and duetifull service to his sacred Majestie at this present convention of the estates.

21 June 1678.

Commissions. 4. Approved of report by committee on commissions.

25 June 1678.

Conservator, poores bands. 5. The present convention takeing to their serious consideration the letters sent to them, and to the lord provost of Edinburgh and agent, from Henrie Wilkie, conservator, togither with the inclosed paper concerning the present state of the money belonging to the Scotts poore at Campheer, they find the samen no wayes satisfactorie and that he had failled in performance of his oblidgment to the last generall convention for returning back the said poores bands, and that he aught and should demitt his office in his Majesties hands conforme to the said oblidgment, but in respect the convention are willing to trye all faire wayes both for preserving of the said conservators credit and lykewayes for secureing the said poore as to these bands impignorat in Arnot Cunighams hands, they ordaine that letters be presently written and dispatched to Arnot

Cunigham, to the minister and kirk session of the Scotts congregation at Campheer, and to the said Henry Wilkie, expostulating with them the case of the said poore and to show them that in case the poores bands be restored *in integrum* as they wer before the said impignoration and the said Henrie Wilkie his medleing with them, the convention will then ordaine the payment of the tuo hundred pund sterling which they are owing to the said conservatour conforme to ane act of burrows past in the last generall convention; and ordained their clerk to draw wp the saids letters, which accordingly wes done and red in their audience and approven, and to evidence to posteritie thair caire for the Scotts poore at Campheer they have ordained the samen letters to be insert in their generall register, whereof the tenor followis:— EDINBURGH. 25 June 1678. Conservator, poores bands.

[*A blank is here left in the original record.*]

6. John Gordoun, lately admitted factor at Campheer, ordered to appear before the last of August next and give his oath *de fideli.* Gordoun, factor.

7. The convention takeing to their consideration the other pairt of the conservators letter in relation to the transgressors of the staple porte, both by burgesses of free royall burrows and inhabitants within the burghs of barronies and regalities, together with the list of severall particular persons who hes lately transgressed, they unanimously ordaine and appoynt Heugh Wallace, their present agent, speedily and with all severitie putt in execution the acts of parliament, acts of privie councill, and acts of burrows against them; and if herefter it shall be fund expedient by the advice of lawers that it is necessar to obtaine ane act of his Majesties secreett councill ordaining the inhabitants of the burghs of regalities and barronies to keep and observe the staple porte alsweell as the burgesses of the free royall burrows, the convention appoynts the commissioners of Edinburgh, Perth, and Linlithgow to solicite the saids lords for obtaining the samen who are to reporte their diligence hereanent to the next generall convention. Staple port.

8. Rejected the commission of Whithorn, it being informal and the commissioner "nowayes qualified conforme to the acts of burrows, he being ane agent in Edinburgh, and no residenter in the place nor yett of the qualitie of a merchand." Whithorn.

29 June 1678.

9. Compeired before the generall convention of burrows Thomas Qualifications of commissioners, clerks.

EDINBURGH. 29 June 1678.

Qualifications of commissioners, clerks.

Stoddert, comissioner for Lanark, and declaired that he haveing produced his comission from the said burgh to the comittee of the convention of estats, who had remitted him to the convention of burrows for tryell of his qualifications as a comissioner, conforme to the acts of burrowis, he craved that in respect his comission did beare him to be a merchand residenter within the burgh bearing portable charges and who can loss and gaine in the concerns of burrows, that therefor he might be admitted and declared qualified, wherinto it wes answered that suppose he had the qualifications forsaid yet he being a comissar clerk could not be admitted in respect by a particular statute of the burrows excluding and debarring clerks from being comissioners, wherinto it was replyed that the said act of burrows wes only taxative and extended allanerly to clerks of royall burrows and not to sherriff or comissar clerks as is cleare by the said statute, which debate being considdered by the convention they fand that the said act of burrows did not reatch to exclude the said Thomas Stoddart and therefor admitted him to be comissioner for the said burgh to this present convention. Thereftir there being severall debates risin anent the justnes and equitie of the said act, whey the samen should not extend alsweell to the sherriff and comissar clerks as to the clerks of the royall burrows, and that there is greater reasone for admitting of the clerks of royall burrows to be comissioners than other clerks in respect it is presumed that they will more zealously espouse and own the interest of the burgh they represent, being their comon servant under their jurisdiction and lyable to the chek of their magistratts, then shirriff or comissar clerks who are independent to the burghs that they represent and are not under any of the saids relations, the convention not having tyme to consider the said matter they wave the considderation thairof to the next generall convention.

Dicksone, advocate, commissioner.

10. The convention of estates having remitted to the convention of burghs to try the qualifications of George Dicksone, advocate, commissioner for Galloway, it was found that as he neither was a merchant nor a residenter in the burgh he was not qualified.

Bruce, commissioner.

11. Consideration of the qualification of Sir Alexander Bruce of Broomhall, commissioner for Culross, was remitted back to the convention of estates.

9 July 1678.

Proposed retention from annual rents.

12. The convention takeing to their considderation that there being

ane overture propponed in the convention of estats presently assembled for retention of one of the hundred aff annual rents to be applyed for the relief of noblemen and gentlemen whose lands are sessed, the convention unanimously as one man resolved to doe all that is in their pouer to oppose the said retention as being the true interest of the burrows sua to doe, and wer uncleare in the matter of poll money in respect the samen would be both vexatious and burdeen to the poorest sorte of people in the kingdom and no advantadge nor profeett to the royall burrows. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1678. Proposed retention from annual rents.

13. Allowed £10 towards reparation of the harbour of Whithorne. Whithorne harbour.

14. Referred to next general convention the supplication of Forres craving a supply for building and repairing their prison. Forres, prison.

15. Appointed the burghs of Dundie and St Andrews to visit and report on the condition of Anstruther Eister. Anstruther Eister.

16. Approved of a tack by the burgh of Dumfries to William Fingas of a piece of ground lying at the mill dam head for the space of sixteen years. Dumfries, tack.

17. Ordained the agent to pay to Alexander Edward, writer in Edinburgh, £5 towards expenses in going to Inverness as clerk to the commisioners appointed for composing the differences there. Edward, expenses.

18. Appointed a particular convention to be called by the provost of Edinburgh whenever he thought it necessary, to act with full powers in the affairs of the burghs. Particular convention.

19. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts extending to £3636. Agents accounts.

20. Ordained the agents to pay certain sums to the macers, servants, and others, for services to the convention. Payments.

21. Appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, and Aberdeen to concur with the burgh of Wick in obtaining an act of the privy council "for dischargeing of the schyre to truble or molest them for payment of any publict dewes with them sieing they pey their proportion with the rest of the royall burrows." Wick.

22. Exempted the burghs of Kintoir, Innerurie, Week, Whitthorne, and Forres from attendance at conventions for three years. Exemptions.

23. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1679. Convention dissolved.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1679.

Edinburgh, James Dick, Alexander Reid ; Perth, Mr Robert Lundie ; Dundie, Alexander Wedderburne ; Aberdeen, David Adie ; Linlithgow, Robert Milne ; Air, William Cunighame ; Haddingtoun, John Sleich ; Monross, Robert

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1679.

Rennald ; Couper, Androw Glassford ; Innerness, Alexander Cuthbert ; Bruntisland, James Dewar ; Brichen, John Skinner ; Selkirk, William Wauch ; Dumbartoun, Robert Watsone ; Lanerk, William Patone ; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stevin ; Peibles, William Plenderleith ; Carraill, George Monross ; Northberwick, Charles Maitland. [Forty-six burghs *blank.*]

1 July 1679.

Preses. 1. Francis Kinloch, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Commissions. 2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

2 July 1679.

Report on commissions. 3. Approved of report by the committee on commissions ; accepted letters of excuse from Stirling, Glasgow, Dumfrees, and Pittinweem ; and recommended Couper and Aberbrothock to be conform to the platform in time coming.

4 July 1679.

Conservator, Wilkie. 4. The convention haveing red and considdered the letters from Mr Snype and the elders and deacons of the Scotts kirk at Campheer, as lykwayes ane missive letter from Andrew Skeen, factor there, and the reporte made be their agent, Heugh Wallace, who wes lately at Campheer, they find the conservator, Henry Wilkie, not only justly blamed for imbazeling of the poores bands bot lykwayes that it is clearlie proven that he is guiltie thereof, and therefor ordains a letter to be written to the said conservator to come home to this kingdom betuixt and the first day of November next, or otherwayes to send ane dimission of his office in his Majesties hands, with certification to him if he faillie that they will writt to his Majestie and narrate his whole behaviour and how destructive his being conservator is to the staple porte ; as lykwayes in the case foirsaid to declaire his place vaccand ; and siclyke the convention ordainis letters of thankis to be sent to the said Maister Androw Skeen, factor, not only for his true information two years since in accusing the said Henrie Wilkie as guiltie in imbazleing of the poores bands, conforme to ane act of the burrows the fyfth days of July 1677, which is now clearly proven and made appeare to the convention, bot lykwayes that he have thanks for his laite care in preserving bands to the value of sevin hundred punds Fleems which wes in the custodie of the relict of Thomas Cunig-

hame belonging to the said poore ; item, that ane other letter be written to the magistratts of Campheer in return to theirs ; as also a letter to John Gordoun, factor, that he returne to Scotland betuixt and the first of November next to give his oath *de fideli* and receive his instructions from the particular convention which is to sitt at Edinburgh in November next, or otherwayes to declaire his office as factor vaccand ; all which letters are recommended to the provest of Edinburgh, clerk, and agent, to draw and to word them conforme to the information they have received from the burrows, and to send the samen for Zealand. EDINBURGH. 4 July 1679. Conservator, Wilkie.

5. The conventione haveing heard from thair agent ane full reporte anent the convoyance made be the conservator, minister, and kirk-session at Campheer of the poores bands, and how he had consulted the affaire with the ablest lawers at the Hague, and that they wer cleare in their judgment that the haill forsaids persons, accessarie to the forsaid convoyance, will be lyable *in solidum* to the poore and to make good such debts which they had assigned ; therefor the convention ordains their agent to writt to Holland that proces be presently commenccd against them makeing good the saids debts. Campheer, poors bands.

6. Ordained that each burgh conform their measures to the standard of Linlithgow. Measures.

7. Ordained that a petition be presented to the secret council setting forth that the benefit of uniformity of measures " will be obstructed unless there be ane universall conformitie within the burghs, shyres, baronies, and regalities and other mercat touns, to the said standart of Linlithgow, and therefor to crave that their lordships wold fall upon some effectuall course to putt the acts of parliament anent conformitie of measures to execution in these places." Uniformity of measures.

8. Remitted to the next particular convention to choose a keeper of the conserjarie house at Campheer. Conserjarie house.

9. Ordained the agent to use diligence against certain burghs for recovery of £2000 owing to him. Diligence against burghs.

10. Ordained the agent to use diligence on bonds granted by several merchants for transporting goods to the staple port. Merchants, staple port.

11. The convention considering "that severall royall burghs hes not observed the staple port, and that some merchands may upon pretence that the convention of burrows are justly offended against the conservator for severall misdemeanors transporte their staple goods to other places," ordained that no staple commodities be transported to any other place within the seventeen provinces than to the town of Campheer. Staple port.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1679.

Shiriff and comissar clerks.

12. The convention haveing under debate ane head of the missive concerning shiriff and commissar clerks, whither, sieing the clerks of royall burrows are excluded by former acts to be comissioners to the convention of burrows, that lykwayes the said shiriff and comissar clerks should be also excluded from being members of the saids conventions of burrows, they unanimously resolved and declaired in the affirmative; and therefore prohibits and discharges in all tyme coming the whole royall burrows within the kingdom to elect and choise any shiriff or comissar clerks to be comissioners to the particular or generall conventions of burrows, under the penalty of (*blank*) to be payed by ilk burgh transgressing this present act, by and attour the casting and rejecting of thair commissions.

Absent burghs fined.

13. The convention considdering that this present convention is not so frequent and numerous as other conventions formerly hes been, the caus whereof they cheiffly ascryve to the not useing of diligence in exacting fynes imposed by the burrows against absent burrows, and considdering that there is no extraordinar reasone for their absence at this tyme except as to some royall burghs in the west, therefor the convention enacts everie burgh absent from this present convention, except such who are excused by them, into ane fyne of ane hundred punds, and ordanis the agent to rase lettres of horning presently against them and to putt the samen into execution without partiality and with all rigour.

Particular convention.

14. Appointed a particular convention, consisting of twenty-five burghs, to meet on the third Tuesday of November next, with power to vote, treat, and conclude in the affairs of burghs.

Anstruther Wester, Kilrennie.

15. Anent the petition given in be the burghs of Anstruther Wester and Kilrennie, mentioning that they had resigned thair priviledges as being royall burghs to the parliament in anno 1670 which wes accepted, quhairby they are no more to be holden to be royall burghs but aught to be expunged out of the taxt roll, yet notwithstanding they are charged to make payment of thair propportionall pairt of the burdeen imposed by the convention of estates in anno 1679, craveing therefor that sieing they are no more a pairt of the bodie of the royall burrows that they may be refounded what they payed by the rest of the royall burrows, the convention finds they are not cleare at present to give ansuer to the said petition and therefore remitts the consideration thairof to the next generall convention.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1679.

16. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts, extending to £2859, 19s. 8d. Agent's accounts.

17. Recommended to the whole royal burghs "that a voluntar contribution may be granted towards the reparatioun of the harberies of Pitterhead and Stanehyve sieing the same is so advantageous for seafaireing traders." Pitterhead and Stanehyve harberies.

18. Ordained the agent to pay the fees to the macers, post, and servants. Fees.

19. Continued the yearly pension of 100 merks to George Cheyne, depute clerk. Depute clerk.

20. Remitted to next general convention a supplication of Aberbrothock for supply for repair of their common work. Aberbrothock.

21. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1680. Next convention.

22. Recommended the agent to complain to the lords of the treasury against James Somervell, usher, for executing letters in royal burghs without concurrence of the magistrates, and committing several abuses for payment of petty imposts on the wine. Executing letters in burghs.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 18 November 1679.

Edinburgh, James Fleeming, Edward Cleghorne; Perth, Mr Robert Lundie; Dundee, John Scrimsour; Aberdeen, Alexander Burnet; Stirling, Robert Russell: Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; Glasgow, John Bell; Air, William Cunighame; Haddingtoun, John Sleich; Dysarte, James Boiswell; Kirkcaldie, Mathew Andersoune; Monross, John Coutts; Innerness, Alexander Cuthbert; Bruntisland, James Dewar; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce; Selkirk, William Wauch; Peebles, William Plenderleith; North Berwick, Charles Maitland; (Seven burghs *blank*).

18 November 1679.

1. James Dick, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Commissions.

3. The convention unanimously resolves to make their address to his royall highnes the Duke of Albanie and York at his arryvell within the abbay of Holirudhous, and recomends to the said committie to deliberate upon the manner and way of the said address and to reporte their opinion. Duke of Albanie and York.

21 November 1679.

4. The convention considdering the reporte of the forsaid committie on approveing of the commissions produced; and that the address to his Duke of Albanie and York.

EDINBURGH. 21 November 1679.

royall highnes should be only verball; and that there be ane letter written to his grace the Duke of Lauderdale anent the conservator, Henry Wilkie, in relation to the maner and way how he hes forfaulted his office and how destructive his being conservator is to the staple porte, and if he be not speedily layd asyde that useful policie of the staple will altogither perish; as lykewayes considdering the opinion of the committie aftir reading Mr Gordons letter, who is ane factor at Campheer, that the provest of Edinburgh and the comissioners for Linlithgow and Bruntisland may take his oath *de fideli* in case he come to this kingdome at any tyme betwixt and the next generall convention; the convention approves of the forsaid haill reporte in all poynts, with pouer to the provest of Edinburgh in congratulating his royall highnes saif arryvell within this kingdom to use such other expressions of respect to his royall highnes as in prudence he shall think fitt.

Lauderdale, conservator.

Arryvell at Abbey.

5. The convention recomends to the provest of Edinburgh to caus wairne them to meet at such tyms as he thinks fitt and according as he shall receave information of his royall highnes arryvell at the abbay.

Unfree traders.

6. Ordained the agent to insist against unfree traders and breakers of the staple port.

27 November 1679.

Impost on wines.

7. Appointed the commissioners of Edinburgh, Perth, Linlithgow, and Glasgow, with concurrence of the agent, to petition the lords of the treasury and exchequer that James Somervell, usher, be "discharged to truble the royall burrows for payment of the impost of four pund vpon the tun of wynes."

Report, agent, staple port.

8. Compeired Heugh Wallace, agent for the royall burrows, and represented that he haveing been lately in Holland had delivered the letters direct from the burrows to the Magistratts of Campheer, to the conservator, to Mr Snype, minister, and to Mr Gordon, factor; and as to the toun of Campheer reported that they had not only punctuallie observed the staple porte as to their pairt bot are most willing to continue in the observance of it, and regraitted exceedingly that conditions wer not keeped to them in respect the most pairt of the staple comodities went to Rotterdam and not to Campheer, and that they judged that the great caus of not observance of the staple wes occasioned by the insufficiencie of the conservator which they desired might be remeeded with all conveinient diligence

. . . And siclyke, the agent reported that he finding Mr Snype, minister at Campheer, and kirk session there, wer refractorie to make up to the Scotts poore at Campheer the soums of money which the conservator, Henrie Wilkie, had uplifted with their consent, he did advyse the samen with the lawers at the Hague who are in the opinion that they will be lyable for the forsaids poores money, whereupon he hes raised proces against them for that effect, and ordains him to insist in the said process untill ane finall decision thereof, and that in his own name as agent for the royall burrows, and to employ advocats, procurators, and others requisite for manadgeing thairof, with speciall pouer to grante procurations for that effect. EDINBURGH. 27 November 1679. Report anent poors money.

9. The letter direct from the magistratts off Campheer to the royall burrows wes redd, the substance whereof is contained in the forsaid reporte made be the agent, and they ordaine letters of thanks to be written to the magistratts off Campheer and to hold furth how earnest the burrows are to have the agreement with them inviolably keeped in all poynts, and how effectuallie they are goeing about it by recomending to thair King ane new conservator, which being done they are hopefull that the staple will yet flurish with them. Letters, magistrats of Campheer.

10. The convention having considered a letter from the conservator "they find the samen nowayes satisfactorie, and therefore, notwithstanding thairof, they ordaine the forsaid letter to be direct to his grace the Duke of Lauderdale for a conservator." Wilkie, conservator.

11. Ordained that the remainder of the bonds lying in the hands of the town clerk of Campheer continue in his custody. Poores bands.

12. Ordained the agent to pursue a declarator against the farmers of the customs and excise "for declaireing them not to have the benefit of merchandizeing during their being in these employments." Farmers of customs and excyse.

2 December 1679.

13. The convention admitted Alexander Forbes, merchant in Innerness, to be master of the conserjarie house at Campheir in place of Robert Kyll, deceased. Master of conserjarie hous.

3 December 1679.

14. The town of Greenock having submitted all differences between them and the burgh of Glasgow to the convention, they appointed the commissioners for Edinburgh, Perth, Linlithgow, Air, Aberdeen, Stirling, Haddingtoun and Lanark, or any four of them, to meet at Glasgow on the second Tuesday of March next to settle the differences as in justice they should think fit. Glasgow and Greenock.

EDINBURGH. 2 December 1679.

15. Recommended the provost of Edinburgh to call a particular convention after receiving an answer from the Duke of Lauderdale concerning the conservator.

Lauderdale, conservator.

Fines, absence.

16. Ordained the agent to charge the burghs for fines for absence from conventions.

Baggadge horses.

17. Ordained the agent to petition the lords of the treasury "that the charges and expensses which the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Lithgow, and severall other burghs, are at in furnishing baggadge horss for the service of his Majesties forces be either payed by them who mak use of the said baggadge horss or otherways that the charges thairof be allowed to the respective burghs in the foirend of what they are due for cess to the publict."

Measures, weights.

18. Remitted to next general convention a representation on behalf of Perth and other burghs craving that they be allowed to continue their previous custom of giving out the measures of the ell and the weights to several adjacent villages.

Pirrie, agents, servant.

19. Ordained the agent to pay to Thomas Pirrie eight dollars and to his own servant four dollars.

EDINBURGH. 6 April 1680.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, James Fleeming, John Dunbar; Perth, Mr Robert Lundie; Dundee, John Scrimger; Aberdeen, Thomas Cushney; Stirling, Robert Russell; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; St Andros, Thomas Finlay; Glasgow, John Bell; Haddingtoun, John Sleich; Dysarte, James Boiswell; Kirkcaldie, Henry Boiswell; Monross, Robert Rennald; Bruntisland, James Dewar; Innerkeithing, James Bennett; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce; Selkirk, William Wauch; Lanerk, James Crawfoord; Peibles, John Hope; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Air, Couper, Innerness, Irwing, Jedburgh and Dumfermling (*blank*).

6 April 1680.

Moderator.

1. Sir James Dick of Priestfield, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Commissions.

2. Approved of report of the committee that the commissions were sufficient.

Gordon, factor.

3. John Gordon, lately appointed factor at Campheer, accepted office and made faith *de fideli administratione*.

Magistrates of Campheer, Gordon.

4. Appointed a letter to be written to the magistrates of Campheer recommending the said John Gordon to them in respect of the want of a conservator to whom he might apply for redress of any wrong.

Bruntisland, deaconry.

5. Appointed the agent to concur with the magistates of Bruntisland in defence of an action depending before the lords of session against them at the instance of the trades of Bruntisland who are pursuing for a declarator for the freedom of a deaconry.

6. Ordained the agent to concur with the magistrates of Selkirk in defence of a plea before the privy council at the instance of James Murray of Philiphaugh anent their privileges. EDINBURGH. 6 April 1680. Selkirk, plea.

7. Anent the petition given in be the burgh of Linlithgow, mentioning that they had the porte of Blacknes erected by King Robert as the only free porte within that shiriffdom for livering and loadning of all merchandice, dischargeing the same to be loaded or livered at any other porte or place, except coall, salt, lyme, and stone, which is also confirmed by all succeeding kings and ratified in all parliaments; the said burgh did also in anno j^{m} vj^{c} sextie tuo yeirs, in fortification of these priviledges, obtaine ane act of exchequer against the Duke of Hamiltoun and his toun of Burrowstounness quhairby the custome office is ordained to be setled at Blacknes and all livering and loadning of merchandice to be there, which act or decreit is againe renewed in anno 1678, and accordingly they wer putt in possession by the lord thesaurer depute; notwithstanding of all which rights, priviledges, and possession, the Duke of Hamiltoun in favouris of his toun of Burrowstouness lately erected in a burgh of regality, pretends that all livering of goods, even such as by act of parliament are reserved for the propper subject of trade belonging to the royall burrows, aught to be at Burrowstouness, alsweell as the ports of royall burrows, and hes for that end commenced a litigious pley against the toun of Lithgow first befor his Majesties exchequer which by them for the tryell of the matter of right wes remitted to the lords of session where it is now in dependence, the petitioners did in the whole procedour of that affaire advyse with the provest of Edinburgh and other burghs then in toun and by thair advice procured the calling of this particular convention that a matter of so generall concerne and so great importe might have the burrows thair concurrance, as both generall and particular conventions of burrows have upon the lyke occasion done, as their acts produced wold evidence, therefor craveing the convention wold be pleased seriously to considder the great and generall importe of that action now depending befor the lords of session against the said burgh of Linlithgow and to grante thair concurrance for representing the same to his sacred Majestie, humbly supplicating his Majestie to considder it as the generall concerne of the royall burrows and as the only thing left to difference them from burghs of barronie and regality, and that it wold pleas his Majestie so to Linlithgow, Blacknes, Burrowstouness.

EDINBURGH. 6 April 1680.

Linlithgow, Blacknes, Burrowstounoss.

recommend it to the lords of session as the justnes of the caus requyres, as also that it wold pleas the convention to renew their former acts in favors of the burgh of Linlithgow and to ordaine their agent to putt them in execution, and to recommend this action and the petitioners great expenss to the next generall convention. [The convention agreed to concur with and assist Lithgow in representing the matter to the King's Majesty as the general concern of the royal burghs, renewed and revived the act of general convention dated 1st July 1664 and other acts anent the port of Blackness, and remitted to next general convention to consider as to expenses.]

Unlaws, absents.

7*a*. Enacted the burghs absent from this meeting in an unlaw of £100 each.

Linlithgow, letter to King.

8. Recommended the provost of Edinburgh to write a letter to his Majesty and another to the Duke of Lauderdale representing the matter referred to in the 7th act "as a generall concerne of the whole royall burrows, entreating his Majestie to be graciously pleased to recommend the caus to the lords of session to doe justice therein to the said burgh of Linlithgow as the justnes of their action requyres."

Gay, Pirrie.

9. Allowed to Alexander Gay eight rex dollars and to Thomas Pirrie four rex dollars for their pains taken at this convention.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1680.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, James Fleeming, Edward Cleghorn ; Perth, Mr Robert Lundie ; Dundee, Alexander Wedderburn ; Aberdeen, David Adie ; Stirling, Robert Russell ; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne ; St Andros, Thomas Findlay ; Glasgow, John Bell ; Air, William Cunighame ; Haddingtoun, William Lamb ; Dysarte, John Reddie ; Kirkcaldie, Henry Boiswell ; Monross, Robert Rennald ; Couper, Andrew Glasfoord ; Dumfrees, William Craik ; Innerness, William Duff ; Bruntisland, James Dewar ; Innerkeithing, James Bennett ; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce ; Brichen, David Donaldsone ; Irwing, James Boyll ; Jedburgh, Andrew Ainsly ; Wigtoun, William Coltrane ; Dumfermling, Robert Walwood ; Selkirk, William Wauch ; Dumbartoun, Robert Watsone ; Rhenfrew, John Somervell ; Dunbar, James Smith ; Lanerk, William Wilkie ; Aberbroth, Henrie Fichie ; Elgin, John Spence ; Peibles, William Plenderleith ; Carraill, George Moncreiff ; Culross, John Heliday ; Bamff, William Fyffe ; Forfar, John Carnegie ; Nairne, David Ross ; Rutherglen, David Spence ; Northberwick, Charles Maitland ; Lauder, Thomas Wood ; Sanchquher, Robert Carmichell ; Dingwall, Donald Bayne ; Queensferry, Alexander Stewart. (Twenty-two burghs *blank*.)

6 July 1680.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1680.

1. Sir James Dick of Preistfield, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Approved of a deputation to Alexander Gay to officiate in the principal clerk's absence. Deputation, Gray.

3. Appointed a committee for revising the commissions. Commissions revised and approved.

4. Approved of report by the committee finding the commissions sufficient.

5. Accepted the excuse of Innerbervie for not sending a commissioner. Inverbervie.

6. Ordained the agent to put the acts of parliament, privy council, and burghs, to execution against certain transgressors of the observance of the staple port. Transgressors, staple port.

7. The convention being informed that the sum of £10 allowed the burgh of Whithorn for repair of their harbour had not been so employed, ordained the agent to obtain repayment of the same. Whithorne harbour.

7 July 1680.

8. Exempted the burghs of Dingwall, Nairne, Tayne, and Cullen from attending conventions for the space of three years. Exemptions.

9. Exempted the burgh of Sancquher from attending conventions for one year. Sanchquer, exemption.

10. Exempted eight burghs from payment of fines for absence from last general convention. Exemption from fines.

11. The commissioner for the burgh of Dundie, and seuerall other burghs, reported that they are daylie trubled by the masters of the caird manufactorie at Leith upon pretence their merchands should sell no cairds bot these that are made in the said manufactorie, and that their merchands are charged to give their oaths thereanent, and that they fyne them that refuse to give their oaths, the convention finding that it is a great prejudice done to the saids burghs doe therefor appoynt a petition to be drawen and presented to the exchequer holding furth the saids abuses and craving redress thereanent and that some effectuall way may be laid doun for preventing the same in tyme coming. Caird manufactorie at Leith.

12. Remitted to next general convention a petition of the burgh of Craill "craveing ane supplie in regaird of their great povertie and decay of trade, the ruin of their harbor and want of their comon good." Craill, petition.

13. Anent the petition given in be the burghs of Anstruther Wester and Kilrennie, craveing that in regaird they have resigned their priviledges Anstruther Wester, Kilrennie.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1680.

Anstruther Wester, Kilrennie.

of royall burrows to the Kings Majestie and that the parliament hes appoynted them to be expunged out of the roll of the burrows and declaired them free of burdeens with the burrows, and that thairfor they may be free of all bygane burdeen imposed vpon the said burghs conforme to the stent roll, and that since the tyme of the resigning their priviledges, the convention haveing considered the said petition they do appoynt the burghs of Dundee, St Andrews and Kirkcaldie to try the condition of the saids burghs and what comon good they have and to reporte to the nixt generall convention.

Bridge of Innerness.

14. Recommended to the whole burghs "that ane speedie collection be made towards the building of the bridge of Innerness, conforme to the act of his Majesties privie councill."

Brichen.

15. The commissioner for Brichen presented a petition referring to the act of convention dated 10th March 1668, appointing the council of the burgh to consist of thirteen persons, and craving that the convention would add two or three to the number of the council. [No deliverance is recorded, a blank being left.]

Cromartie.

16. Anent the petition given in by the burgh of Cromartie to be relieved of bygone burdens, having resigned their privilege and been expunged out of the roll of royal burghs, the convention appointed the commissioners for Innerness, Taine, Dingwall, Nairne and Elgin to report as to the condition of the burgh.

Dysart, common good.

17. In terms of a petition of the burgh of Dysart, the convention agreed to concur with that burgh in defence of actions by Sir James Cockburne of that Ilk, for himself and in name of Lord Sinclair, "quhairby they intend by reasone of their waik and mean condition at present to take away their haill comon good which consists mainly of their sea porte and harbor and comountie of their mure wherin hitherto the said burgh hes been in peaceable possession without any kynd of interruption past memorie of man."

Agents accounts.

18. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts, extending to £2935, 8s. 4d.

Fines for absence.

19. Ordained the agent to charge each of those burghs absent from this convention for payment of £100 of fine.

Collectors, etc., of customs.

20. The convention resolved to petition the lords of his Majesty's exchequer that the collectors, and other servants belonging to his Majesty's customs, be discharged to trade during their charge.

8 July 1680.

Privileges of burghs, measures, weights.

21. Agreed to concur with and assist Perth and other burghs in pursuing a declarator of their privilege in giving out the measure of the eln and weights to the adjacent villages.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1680.

22. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of £600 contributed towards the expenses of Linlithgow in defence of an action at the instance of the Duke of Hamilton, on account of the port and harbour of Blacknes. Linlithgow, Blacknes.

23. The convention appointed a letter by the magistrates of Campheer as to the conservator to be sent to the Duke of Lauderdale to be perused by him, together with a letter for the convention desiring his grace to interpose with his Majesty for allowing the burghs to recommend some fit person to be conservator, "which letter is to containe the burrows heartie thanks for his Majesties royall care of them as wes signified to them by his grace the Duke of Rothes, lord high chancellor of Scotland." Conservator, his Majesty.

24. The convention considdering the great burdeen the royall burrows lyes under by thair payment of the great impositions imposed by the King of Denmark upon Scotts victuall exacted from merchands and skippers at the seuerall ports in Norraway and other ports within the said Kings dominions, judge it fitt that ane address be made to the Kings Majestie of Britann thereanent, and recommends to the burgh of Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Dundie, Glasgow, Air, Monross to considder upon the nature of the address. Impositions, King of Denmark.

25. The convention considdering that the coall that are transported to Campheer peyes considderable dewes to the conservator and other dews as if they wer a staple comoditie, doe therefore declaire that coalls are no staple comoditie, and that comoditie is free of all the saids dews, and discharges the conservator or any other who exacts the saids dews upon coallis as staple comoditie to exact the same in tyme coming. Coalls not staple comoditie.

26. Appointed a letter to be written to the magistrates of Campheir desiring that the consigned money due by the deceased Thomas Cunningham, factor, to several merchants be sent to Edinburgh. Cuningham, factor, merchand.

27. The convention modified the fines imposed for absence from last general convention to £25 each. Fines for absence.

28. Ordained the agent, after recovery of the fines for absence, to pay one-fourth to Aberbroth, and another fourth to Northberwick "for a help toward the helping of their tolbooths and harbors." Aberbroth, Northberwick.

29. The commissioners revived all acts of convention made against transgressors of the staple port, with the addition that "each skipper that shall transporte staple goods to any porte in the Netherlands except the staple porte shall be lyable in payment of ane thousand merks and the merchand in tuentie fyve per cent according to the value of his goods." Transgressors of staple port.

30. Appointed the provost of Edinburgh, in case of an emergency, to call a particular convention. Particular convention.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1680.

Munross, Brichen.

31. Appointed the agent to concur with the burghs of Munross and Brichen "in defence of ane persute persewed befor the lords of privie councill at the instance of the Earle of Southesk against them."

Air, Irwing, localitie.

32. The convention haveing heard the reporte of the burgh of Air anent the shirriffdom of Air their imposeing upon the burghs of Air and Irwing a locality of corne and strae contrare to all law and custome, therefor the convention appoynts their agent to represent this matter in name of the burrows to his Majesties privie councill that the saids burghs and the remanent burrows may be free of that and the lyke burdeens.

Payments.

33. Ordained the agent to pay Alexander Gay £100 Scots, Thomas Pirrie £50, and other sums to the post and servants.

Nixt general convention.

34. Dissolved the present meeting, and appointed the next general convention to be held in Edinburgh in July 1681.

Ports and harbors of unfree places.

33. The convention does revive all former acts made by generall and particular conventions quhairby the loading and livering of all goods which by act of parliament are declaired to be the propper subject of the trade of the royall burrows is discharged to be at the ports and harbors of burghs of barrony and regalitie and other unfree places, and discharges the haill burgesses of royall burghs to load or liver goods elswhere bot allenerly at the ports of free royall burrows, under the paine of fyve hundred merks, *toties quoties*; as also discharges all burgesses of royall burghs to keep pairt of any shipps belonging to burghs of barronie and regalitie, under the penalty forsaid; and appoynts the magistratts of each burgh to make acts in their toun councill bookis for that effect, and ordaines lettres of horning to be direct against the transgressoris of this present act, and the agent to putt the same to due execution.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 25 July 1681.

Edinburgh, James Fleeming, Edward Cleghorne; Perth, John Glass; Dundie, John Scrimsour; Aberdeen, George Skeen; Stirling, Robert Russell; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; St Andros, Mr John Assone; Glasgow, John Bell; Air, William Cunighame; Haddingtoun, Mr Harie Cockburne; Dysarte, John Reddie; Kirkcaldie, John Williamsone; Munross, Robert Rennald;

EDINBURGH. 19 September 1681.

22. The convention appoints the agent to pey to Heugh Stevinsone, under clerk of the privie councill, ane hundred punds Scotts, for his pains and attendance in relation to the setling of the trade of manufactories and other good services done be him to the burrows. Under clerk of privie councill.

23. The convention appoynts the agent to represent to the lords of his Majesties privie councill the great prejudice the burrows susteans be the master of the revillis in his chargeing persons upon generall letters for playing at cairds and dyce, and that it may be discharged for the future, and to report. Master of the revillis.

24. Appointed the agent to pay to Mr Andrew Forrester, secretary to the Duke of Lauderdale, £30 sterling for his service in the burghs' affairs, conform to act of general convention in July 1675. Duke of Lauderdale's secretary.

24*a*. The convention discharged "any fee or pension to be payed to George Cheyne or William Broun, their late agent, in tyme coming." Cheyne, Broun.

25. The convention appoints the agent to concurre with the burghs of Kintoir, Innerurie, and Cromertie, for getting them continued amongst the royall burrows, and to oppose any designe or endeavour that may be used in the contrare as being a generall concerne of the burrows. Kintoir, Innerurie, Cromartie.

26. Exempted the burghs of Week, Lauder, Kirkewall, Kintoir, and Innerurie from attending conventions for three years. Exemptions.

27. Recommends the poor condition of Dysarte and Week to the consideration of the next general convention. Dysarte, Week.

28. Appointed the alteration of the tax roll to be a head of next missive. Tax roll.

29. Appointed the agent to pay fees to Alexander Gay and others. Payment of fees.

30. Dissolved the present meeting, and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1682. Next convention.

31. The convention declairs that albeit the provest of Edinburgh did be himself alter the dyett of the last generall convention in respect the Parliament did ensue, and for which the convention did return him thair thanks, yet the samen shall be no preparative quhairby the provest of Edinburgh may alter the useuall dyett in tyme coming except when the lyke case exists. Altering dyett of convention.

The commissioner of Haddington protested that they ought not to be liable in any burden or imposition at this convention, "in respect he pretended there wes not ane sufficient quorum at the dissolving of the convention." Protest, Haddington.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1682.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, Archibald Hamiltoun, William Borthuick; Perth, John Glas; Dundie, James Fleschour; Aberdeen, Walter Robertson; Stirling, Hew Kennedy; Linlithgow, Alexander Mylne; St Andros, Mr John Easone; Glasgow, Johne Bell; Air, Yaplay Robertson; Haddingtoun, Mr Henry Cockburne; Dysartt, John Reddie; Kirkcaldie, John Williamsone; Monross, Robert Reynald; Couper, George Manson; Dumfrees, John Coupland; Innerness, William Duff; Bruntisland, Michaell Seatone; Innerkeithing, Thomas Wilsone; Kinghorne, John Bruce; Brechen, David Donaldson; Irwing, James Boyll; Jedburgh, Andrew Ainslie; Kirkcudbricht, John Inglis; Wigtoun, William Coltrane; Dumfermling, William Wacker; Selkirk, Andrew Angus; Dumbartoun, William M'Farlane; Rhenfrew, John Love; Dunbar, James Kellie; Lanerk, William Wilkie; Aberbrothok, Patrick Seton; Elgin, John Fyff; Peebles, William Plenderleith; Carraill, George Moncreiff; Taine, Alexander Ross; Culross, John Helyday; Bamff, William Fyff; Whitthorn, David Forester; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rothesay, Mr George Cunighame; Forres, Patrick Tulloch; Rutherglen, Robert Bowman; Northberwick, Alexander Home; Cullen, James Lawtie; Sancquher, Robert Carmichell; Innerbervie, Alexander Mann; (nineteen burghs *absent*).

4 July 1682.

Preses. 1. Sir James Fleeming, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Commissions. 2. Appointed a committee for revising the commissions.

Address to chancellor and thesaurer. 3. The convention finds it most fitt and expedient that the persons vpon the said comittie, and such other comissioners as can conveniently meett, make ane address in name of the burrows to the lord high chancellar and lord high thesaurer, and to congratulate his Majesties happie choyce of thair lordships to those offices of state.

5 July 1682.

Test subscrivit. 4. The whole convention of burrows did take the test, conforme to the additionall act made in the late session of parliament thereanent, upon their knees, and thereftir did subscrive the samen in ane paper apairt which lyes *in retentis* amongst the warrands of this present convention.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1682.

5. Approved of the whole commissions, and ordained that in future it be inserted in the commission for Lanark that the commissioner is "a reall trafficqueing merchand," and the commission from Rothesay to have the seal of the burgh appended. Comissions approven.

6. The convention recomends to the provest of Edinburgh to acquante the lord high theasurer that such of the royall burrows as are present resolves to make their respective eques before the exchequer once this moneth of July and that the same be taken off thair hands as tymeous payment. Burrows eques.

7. There wes presented and red ane letter from the Kings Majestie narrating a commission to be conservator to Mr James Kennedie and recommending him to the royall burrows, whereupon the convention appoynted the comissioners for Edinburgh, Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Innerness, Bruntisland, and Kirkcaldie, to considder what interest the burrows hes in the nomination and election of the conservator and to reporte, with pouer lykwayes to the saids comissioners to receave information from Sir James Dick what progres is made in relation to the doun getting of the fyftie solze upon the tun of Scotts shipps goeing to France, and to reporte. Election of conservator.

8. Ordains the alteration of the taxt roll to be a head of the missive of next generall convention. Taxt roll.

6 July 1682.

9. The convention having heard the reporte of the comittie concerning the foresaid affaire of fyftie solze upon the tun, and the particulars of Sir James Dicks diligence lately at London thereanent, and how the same wes made a particular instruction to the lord Prestoun, ambassador to the Frensh King, and that they had given the said Sir James their heartie thanks in name of the burrows for his caire in that matter, the convention approves thereof and ordaines, in furder prosecution of that affaire, that letters be written to his royall highnes and to the Earle of Murray, as secretary, and to the said ambassador thereanent. [Ordained the sum of £300 sterling to be advanced to any person the convention shall appoint for getting the impost removed, and authorised the next particular convention to augment the gratuity to any sum not exceeding £4,500, payable when the impost is removed]. Act anent the 50 solze on the tun.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1682.

Kennedy conservator.

10. The gift in favors of Mr James Kennedie of the office of conservator, granted by his Majestie, wes unanimously approven of by the whole convention, under protestation of reserving the burrows priviledges of choiseing and nominateing ane conservator in tyme cuming as accords of the law, as is contained in the act of admission of Sir Patrick Drummond to that office; and in respect of his absence ordains commission to be granted for takeing his oath *de fideli administratione* as conservator, and that ane letter be written to him in ansuer to his direct to the convention requireing his presence within this kingdom about the beginning of November next to receave his instructions from the royall burrows; as lykwayes that ane other letter be written in ansuer to the letter direct be the magistratts of Campheer to this present convention: both which letters are to be drawen at the sight and be advice of the foresaids persons, and to be signed by the provest of Edinburgh as preses.

Particular convention.

11. Appointed a particular convention, consisting of twenty-five burghs, to be held at Edinburgh in November next.

Salmond no staple commoditie.

12. The convention, upon good and weightie considderations, declairs that salmond is and shall in no tyme hereftir be repute a staple comoditie, bot yet that the same shall be subject in payment of the conservators dews as formerly.

Lanark, fine.

13. The convention agreed to concur with Lanark in soliciting the lords of secreitt councill for doun getting a pairt of thair lait fine of 6000 merks which if exacted it will altogither incapacitate the said burgh from being ane member of the royall burghs,

Anent the masteris of the revellis.

14. The convention taking to considderation the many complents made be the most pairt of the royall burrows against Edward and James Funtains, masters of the revills, upon the accompt of their oppressing their inhabitants and the whole cuntrie by charging them with horning upon their playing at games, such as cairds, tables, bullyearts, and the lyke other recreation, which the convention conceaves is not comprehended in their gift, and they being cited did appeare before the convention, and being requyred by the preses whether they would pas from any pretence they had be vertue of their gift for exacting of money for playing at tables, cairds, shool boords, and the lyke, and restrict

themselfs to public showes, they did altogither refuse, whereupon the convention unanimously have resolved to petition the secreett councill for restricting the gift in maner forsaid. EDINBURGH. 6 July 1682.

15. On the complaint of the burgh of Aberdeen, the convention discharged the burghs of Kintoir and Innerurie from granting burgess tickets to persons not resident within their burghs, and conniving with them by suffering them to possess the privileges of burgesses as to trafficking. Kintoir, Innerurie, burgesses.

16. The convention haveing taken to thair consideration the supplications of the burghs of Cromertie, Anstruther Wester and Kilrennie, craveing to be free of the burrow dues and to be expunged out of the taxt roll, they before ansuer to the saids supplications ordains information to be taken by the agent concerning the state and condition of the saids burghs and what comon good or burgage lands they have, to the end that before they be exeemed of the burdeen layd on them as burghs royall that they dispone their common good and burgage lands in favors of the royall burrows. Cromertie, Anstruther Wester and Kilrennie.

17. It being represented to the convention by the comissioner for the burgh of Couper that one of the meanest of their inhabitants being fyned in a small soume for comitting a ryott against his deacon which he had suspended, and produced ane act of the burrows in the yeare 1610 bearing that the inhabitants of the royall burghs who should suspend the decreitts and sentences of their magistratts, and if thereftir the letters should be fund ordorlie proceeded against them, that then the suspenders should loss their burgesship and be fyned in the soume of ane hundred punds, as the said act in itself more fullie bears, which being redd and considdered be the convention, and finding that in sua far as it extends to ryotts and to the preservation of the peace within burgh and to the strenthning of the lawes of the magistratts they be thir presentis revives and renews the said act in all poynts and ordains the same to be ane annuell head of the missive. It is always hereby declaired that this present act shall noways be extended to particular burgesses being persewed at the instance of their comburgesses in civill affairs albeit they suspend the sentences of their magistratts, which is entirely reserved to them, and recomends to the agent to assist the said burgh of Couper in obtaining ane decreit against the suspender in the next session. Act anent suspenders of decreits revived.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1682.

St Androis, Dysart, Pittenweem, Wigtoun. Merchands, Cuninghame, factor.

Walker, factor.

Petition, Selkirk.

Petitions Forres, Sancquher.

Exemptions.

18. Granted to the burgh of St Androis 600 merks, and to the burghs of Dysart, Pittenweem, and Wigtoun 100 merks each for their present relief.

19. Appointed the money consigned by the widow of the late Thomas Cuninghame, factor in Campheer, in the hands of the secretary of Campheer, to be transmitted to the treasurer of Edinburgh for behoof of the merchants who are creditors of Cuninghame.

20. The convention admitted Alexander Walker, merchant in Aberdeen, to be factor for the nation at the staple port of Campheer.

21. Remitted to next particular convention consideration of a petition by the burgh of Selkirk to be discharged of the fine of 1000 merks imposed upon them for the election of Sir Patrick Murray to be their commissioner to parliament.

22, 23. Remitted to next general convention petitions of (1) Forres "craveing a supplie towards the building of ane sufficient tolbooth or prison, the building of their bridge and repaireing of their church," and (2) Sancquher "craveing some supplie for repairing of their bridge and tolbooth and putting them in a conditione to continue a member of the royall burrows."

24. Exempted the burghs of Cullen, Tayne, Forres and Innerbervie from attendance at convention for three years.

7 July 1682.

Goods transported to Holland.

25. The convention takeing to considderation that albeit the merchands that transports coallis, corns, and others commodities which are not staple commodities, to Holland, and in these shipps where these goods are transported they doe transporte packs of goods which are staple comodities and breaks bulk and makes vendition thairof without owning the staple porte in the leist, farr contrare to the acts and statuts of the royall burrowis anent the staple porte and to the great prejudice of the burrows, therfor for remeid thairof the convention doe statute and ordaine that quhatevir staple comodities shall be transported to any place in the 7 provinces in any shipp where unstaple goods are directed and dislondned that there be no brecking of packs of the saids staple comodities till they be transported to the staple porte, under the penaltie of confiscation of the ane half of the comodities to be incurred be them, *toties quoties*, by and attour the certification mentioned in the act of his Majesties privie councill anent the merchands their observance of the staple porte.

Payment of fees.

26. Appointed the agent to pay salaries and gratuities to Alexander Gay and others.

Contribution, Dumbartoun.

27. The convention haveing considdered the petition of the burgh

of Dumbartoun and ane act of his Majesties privie councill appoynting a voluntar contribution for building a stane bridge wpon the watter of Leven near Dumbartoun, the convention doe recomend the samen to the nixt generall convention. EDINBURGH. 7 July 1682.

28. Ordaned the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts extending to £2725, 15s. Scots and directed the burgh of Edinburgh to advance out of their missive dues certain sums due to the clerk and other servants of the burghs. Agents accompts, &c.

29. The convention taking to their consideration that the Earle of Murray, sole secretary of state for the kingdom of Scotland, is in ane fitt and suteable capacitie to doe good offices to the royall burrows, and sieing the agents place to the burrows is now vaccand through the Duke of Lauderdale his voluntar dimission of the secretars office in favors of the said Earle and by lyeing himself asyde from negotiating the burrowis affairs, therefor the convention be thir presentis make and constitute the sad Earle of Murray to be thair agent at court during thair pleasur and allowes to him ane pension of tuo thousand merks yeirlie to be payed by thair agent in the samen way and maner as it wes payed to the Duke of Lauderdale. Earle of Murray agent at court.

30. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1683. Next convention.

31. Appointed the burghs of Dundie, St Androis and Montrose to visit and report upon the true state and poor condition of Carraill. Carraill.

On complaint made against James Somervell, usher to the exchequer, he appeared and "declaired that he never gave ordor to exact any impost for brandie, and restricted himself to four pund upon the tun of Frensh wyne and butt of seck, and promist nevir to exact any such impost upon brandie in tyme comeing." Somervell, usher to exchequer.

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, Archibald Hamiltoun, William Borthwick; Perth, Patrick Hay; Dundie, John Scrimsour; Aberdeen, Walter Robertsone; Stirling, Heugh Kennedie; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; St Androis, Mr John Easone; Glasgow, John Barnes; Air, William Birsbane; Haddingtoun, Mr Harie Cockburn; Dysarte, John Reddie; Kirkcaldie, John Williamsone; Montross, John Coutts; Couper, Andrew Glasfoord; Dumfrees, William Fingas; Innerness, William EDINBURGH. 3 July 1683. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1683.

Duff; Bruntisland, Michael Seattoun; Innerkeithing, Alexander Andersone; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce; Irwing, James Boyll; Wigtoun, William Coltrane; Dumfermling, Robert Walwood; Selkirk, Androw Angus; Rhenfrew, John Finnie; Dunbar, James Kellie; Lanerk, James Weir; Aberbrothock, John Kidd; Elgin, Alexander Russell; Peibles, John Hope; Carraill, George Moncreiff; Culross, James M'Kie; Bamff, William Fyffe; Forfar, John Carnegie; Forres, Mr James Smith; Rutherglen, Andrew Harvie; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Sancquher, Robert Carmichaell; Queensferrie, James Hill; Stranrawer, Alexander Patersone; (twenty-seven burghs *blank*).

3 July 1683.

Preses. 1. Sir James Fleeming, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Test suorn. 2. The commissioners "did sueare the test conforme to the usewall manner and thereftir subscrivit."

Comissions. 3. Appointed a committee for revising the commissions.

Wallace, dimitted office. 4. Compeared Heugh Wallace, his Majesty's cash keeper, and resigned his office as agent to the royal burghs.

Elphingstoun, agent. 5. The convention appointed Mr James Elphingstoun, writer to his Majesty's signet, to be agent for the royal burghs.

Representation, Kennedie, conservator. 6. Compeired Mr James Kennedie, present lord conservator, and represented that, conforme to his Majesties gift of the said office and the royall burrows approbation thairof, he had actuallie exercised in the said office as conservator at the Scotts staple port at Campheer for a considerable tyme, and gaue ane learge and full accompt of the present state and condition of the said staple, and condiscended vpon seuerall particulars wherein he had advanced the interest of the staple and for encuradgement of trade, and how it wes now in ane more floorishing condition then it had been thir tuentie years past, and that it wes lyk daylie to aduance more and more to the honor of the nation and improvement of the trade, and how he had setled all the members necessar for the conservators court, as lykwayes represented the condition of the poores box and what money belonged to it on stock, and how he had placed, with consent of some of the burrows, Mr Mathew Lumsdale to be keeper of the conserjarie hous, as lykwayes his diligence concerning the consigned money belonging to the creditors of Mr Thomas Cunigham, and in getting up the registers belonging to the conservatorie office, and his endeavouring to gett the prohibition of the Scotts coall from comeing to Amsterdam removed; after which representation made be the lord conservator and

reading of the missive letter direct from the magistratts of Campheer to the comissioners of burrowes, and the attestation under the hands of seuerall Scotts men in Holland confirming the forsaid accompt given be him, the present convention unanimouslie approved thereof and gave him thair most humble thanks for his extraordinar caire, pains, and asseduitie in the forsaid particular, and hereby recommends to him to prosecute what of the saids particulars is not as yett fullie ended to ane finale setlement thereof. EDINBURGH. 3 July 1683.

7. Allowed to James Kennedie, conservator, £250 sterling in satisfaction of his expenses and pains in settling of the staple port and his voyages and journeys in England, Scotland, and several places in the Low Countries. Conservator, £250.

8. Henry Wilkie, late conservator, not having delivered up the bonds belonging to the poor at Campheer, the convention rescinded the 19th act of the general convention in July 1677 allowing him £200 in payment of expenses. Wilkie, late conservator.

9. On a report by the committee appointed for revising the commissions the convention rejected that of Forres as the commissioner was not an actual residenter. Report on comissions.

10. There wes red in presence of the convention ane letter direct from the magistratts of Campheer to the royall burrows wherein they crave, first, that no passis or coquetts be given to any other porte in the Netherlands bot to Campheer; item, that the selling of all staple goods should be at Campheer and no conditionall bargane should be made there either by the merchands or their factors upon pleasure of the buyer; and, last, that salmond and lead ur should be declaired staple comodities. As to the first poynt, the convention declairs that no passis or coquetts aught to be given to shipps carieing staple comodities to any porte in the Netherlands bot to Campheer, and ordainis everie particular royall burgh to observe the same; and as to the second poynt, the convention considdering that it is ane great advantadge for holding up the true value of their staple comodities that the samen should not be offered to any buyer out of the toun of Campheer, bot that the Hollanders or any others in the Low Cuntries who hes a mynd to buy any staple comodities come to the toun of Campheer and make bargane for the same upon the place, which will lay a necessitie upon the buyer to make bargane at Campheer, and not to slight the saids goods by haveing them offered to them at the place where the buyer reseeds, and considdering that it is a great disparadgement to these goods that buyers should make bargane to send Letter, magistrats of Campheer.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1683.

Letter magistrats of Campheer.

back the goods from the place they reseed to Campheer in case they doe not pleas them, therefor they discharge in all tyme coming any such conditionall barganes to be made be the owners of the saids goods or his factor, and in case the factor be guiltie of makeing any such conditionall bargane the convention declairs the same to be ane malversation of his office for which he should be deprived or suspended from his office be the conservator; and as to the last poynt concerning salmond and lead ur, the convention is not cleare to declaire the salmond to be a staple comoditie inrespect it is perishable, bot in case that comoditie of salmond shall happen to come to Campheer that the same enjoy the benefitt of a staple comoditie, and the convention recomends to the conservator to deal with the magistratts of Campheer to dispense with salmond to goe to any other porte in the Netherlands alsweell as to the toun of Campheer; and as to lead ur, the convention declairs it is not in their pouer to regulate that comoditie inregaird the same is transported by noblemen and gentlemen in Scotland be vertue of previous barganes made with other Hollanders then these that reseeds at Campheer. And ordains the provest of Edinburgh to writt in name of the burrows ane ansuer to the magistratts of Campheer of the substance and to the effect forsaid.

Kennedy, conservator.

11. The convention revived the act made in favor of Mr James Kennedie, conservator, at the last general convention in July 1682.

Conservator.

12. The convention earnestly recomends to the conservator to use his exact diligence and endeavors in recovering the Scotts poores money imbazled by Henrie Wilkie and the kirk-session of Campheer; as lykwayes, the convention recommends to him to procure some mentinance for the reader, scoolmaster, and scoolmistres at Campheer out of the poores box, and that ay and while some other found be layd doun for their mantinance; and siclyke, recomends to the conservator that he take als exact nottice of the staple goods imported by the burghs of regalities and barronies as these that are exported by the royall burrows, to the effect all staple comodities may be brought to the staple porte conforme to his Majesties poclamation made thereanent.

Consergerie house.

13. Admitted Mathew Lumsdale, skipper, to be master of the consergerie house at Campheir, in place of the deceased Alexander Forbes.

4 July 1683. EDINBURGH. 4 July 1683.

14. For securing uniformity of measures, the convention ordained the burgh of Linlithgow to report yearly to the convention what burghs have not taken a set of measures, and any burgh refusing to be liable for £36 Scots for the set besides such penalty as the convention shall impose. Uniformity of measures.

15. Anent the petition given in be Alexander Patersone, merchand, comissioner for the burgh of Stanraer, mentioning that quhair the said burgh wes erected in a royall burgh by King James the Sext in the yeare [1617*], conforme to thair chartor of erection, and being trubled by the burgh of Wigtoun either to beare ane pairt of their burdeen or inroll themselfs amongst the free burrows they choised rather to cast themselfs upon the favour and discretion of the royall burrows then to haue any dependance upon the burgh of Wigtoun, therefor craveing that the said burgh might be inrolled among the royall burrows; which petition with the forsaid gift being duelie considdered they haue in one voice ordained the said burgh to be inrolled amongst the number of the royall burrows of this kingdom conform to the tenor of their erection, and be thir presentis accepts, receaues, and inrollis the said burgh, and ordains them to have place conform to thair inrollment, and ordains the said burgh to send with their comissioner to the next generall convention their oblidgement for keeping of the generall and particular meettings of the burrows quhairunto they shall be wairned, and for obaying of all acts and ordinances alredy made or to be made be the burrows, and for berring of all burdeens that shall be imposed upon them by the rest of the burrows according to their proportion of the taxt roll, and in assisting and maintaining the burrows just liberties and priviledges according to thair pouer and abilitie; wherupon the said Alexander Patersone tooke instruments and oblidged him to send in the forsaid band to the next generall convention for fullfilling of the premisses, and soleame suore the test and subscrivit the samen. Stanraer erected in a royall burgh.

16. The convention appoynts ane particular convention, consisting of tuentie-fyve burghs, to be called by the lord provest of Edinburgh anent the carieing on the designe of the 50 solze upon the tun which is presentlie in agitation by the Lord Prestoun, ambassador from his Majestie to the Frensh King, as lykwayes anent any other emergent and important Particular convention.

[1] The charter, which is dated 24th July 1617, is recorded in the Registrum Magni Sigilli, lib. xlviij, No. 286.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1683.

affaire concerning the royall burrows, and that when the lord provest shall see caus for that effect.

5 July 1683.

Taxt roll altered.

17. [After considering a report by a committee, the convention altered the taxt roll and established the same as follows :—]

	Lib.	s.	d.		Lib.	s.	d.
Edinburgh	33	6	8	Aberbrothock	0	9	0
Perth	3	17	0	Elgin	1	3	0
Dundie	5	0	0	Peibles	0	12	0
Aberdeen	6	0	0	Carraill	0	8	0
Stirling	1	16	0	Taine	0	7	0
Linlithgow	1	10	0	Culross	0	8	0
St Andros	1	4	0	Bamff	0	8	0
Glasgow	15	0	0	Whitthorn	0	2	0
Air	1	14	8	Forfar	0	4	0
Hadingtoun	1	12	0	Rothesay	0	6	0
Dysarte	0	10	0	Nairne	0	3	0
Kirkcaldie	3	3	0	Forres	0	5	0
Montross	2	18	0	Rutherglen	0	3	0
Couper	1	0	0	Northberwick	0	1	0
Anstruther Eister	0	4	0	Cullen	0	2	0
Dumfrees	1	13	4	Lauder	0	6	0
Innerness	1	16	0	Kilrennie	0	2	0
Bruntisland	1	3	0	Annan	0	2	0
Innerkeithing	0	8	0	Lochmaben	0	2	0
Kinghorne	0	9	0	Sancquher	0	1	0
Brichen	0	11	0	Galloway	0	1	0
Irwing	0	18	0	Dingwall	0	2	0
Jedburgh	0	18	0	Dornoch	0	3	0
Kirkcudbricht	0	16	0	Queensferrie	0	10	0
Wigtoun	0	8	0	Forterose	0	5	0
Pittinweem	0	7	0	Cromartie	0	5	0
Dunfermling	0	16	0	Kintoir	0	2	0
Anstruther Wester	0	5	0	Innerurie	0	3	0
Selkirk	0	13	4	Week	0	3	4
Dumbartoun	0	10	0	Kirkwall	0	10	0
Rhenfrew	0	8	0	Innerbervie	0	1	0
Dunbar	0	12	0	Stanraer	0	2	0
Lanerk	0	12	0				

Dissent, Glasgow, &c.

18. The commissioners for Glasgow, Kirkcaldie, Montrose, and Elgin, before the alteration of the tax roll being agreed to, dissented from laying any further burden on their respective burghs.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1683.

Scotts trade with Hamburg.

19. It being represented to the comittie be Robert Jollie, merchand in (*blank*), that he haveing exported from Scotland severall goods of the product of this kingdom to the city of Hamburgh he wes impeded to make seal thereof, he not being a member of the English societie, who by the 42 article of the contract betuixt the senators of the said citie and them, dated in anno 1618, are alledged to be debarred as being subjects of the King of England, whereas the contract cannot debarre the merchands in Scotland from making seal of their goods at Hamburgh of the product of this kingdom, they not being subjects of England, and that the merchants in Scotland being nowayes concerned with the forsaid contract ought to have the freedom to transporte and make seal of their goods in Hamburgh, and therefor craving what is fitt to be done for getting the said prohibition taken off and preventing the lyke prejudice the merchands in Scotland might susteane in tyme coming, it being a generall concerne of the haill royall burrows; the convention thinks fitt that the lord chancellor be acquainted with the matter and that the lord provest of Edinburgh writt a letter in name of the burrows to the secretary of state for procuring a letter from his Majestie to the city of Hamburgh for obtaining freedom to the merchands of this kingdom to transporte their goods to the city of Hamburgh and make seal thairof upon the consideration the saids merchands are not subjects of England and are noways concerned in the said contract, and als that the lord provest of Edinburgh deall with the chancellor to writt a letter to his royall highnes for that effect.

Clerkship of Linlithgow.

20. Ratified and approved gift of the clerkship of Linlithgow in favor of William Bell *ad vitam aut culpam*, dated 2d October 1682.

Taxt roll.

21. The convention takeing to consideration that the alteration of the taxt roll hes been thir severall years past ane constant head of the missive and that there hes been severall attempts to alter the same bot did not take effect nor come to a true maturitie and rippenes untill it wes considdered by this present convention, and considdering that there is als generall a satisfaction given to the royall burrows as could be reasonablie be expected albeit it be not in the pouer of any human judicatorie to satisfie and pleas all concerned, and to the effect that the royall burrows may meett at thair conventions with all love, peace, and concord

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1683.

Taxt roll.

amongst themselfs when their particular interests is layd asyde such as the alteration of the taxt roll which hes these many years bygane proven the bond of a contention amongst the royall burrows to their no small disturbance, therefor the convention enacts and ordains that the alteration of the taxt roll shall not be ane head of the missive for fyve years to come aftir the date hereof bot shall altogither be holden out and not insert in the generall missive during the said space.

6 July 1683.

Burghs of barony and regality.

22. The convention passed an act against loading and delivering of goods at any other ports than the ports belonging to royal burghs, and against burgesses of royal burghs being partners in ships belonging to the inhabitants of burghs of barony and regality and other unfree places.

Act anent Selkirk's fine.

23. The burgh of Selkirk having paid £1050 Scots in part payment of fines, the convention discharged them of the remainder, "and in regaird of the said burghs poore condition and the singularness of the case, appoynts their condition to be presented to the next generall convention."

Defence of priveledges.

24. Instructed the agent "to assist any particular burgh that shall apply themeselfs to him whenevir any of their priveledges are encroached upon."

Northberwick, Arbroath, £400.

25. Ordained the agent to pay out of the first end of the fines he shall receive £400 Scots allowed the burghs of Northberwick and Arbroath by the 28th act of the convention held in July 1680.

Burghs absent.

26. Excused the burghs of Dumbartoun and Kirkcudbricht for not attending this convention and fined the other burghs absent in £100 each.

Diligence, transgressors of staple port.

27. Ordained diligence to be proceeded with against transgressors of the staple port, to the end that the expenses already incurred may be recovered.

Merchands, Cuninghame, factor.

28. The convention again desired the money consigned as mentioned in the 19th act of last general convention to be transmitted to Edinburgh.

Agents accompts fitted.

29. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts extending to £3778, 2s. Scots.

Adress to chancellor and thesaurer.

30. The convention ordained "ane adress to be made to the lord chancellor and lord high theasurer anent the prejudice the royall burrows susteans by unfree places; as lykways to recomend the conservator to them for a pension to be obtained from his Majestie as conservator."

Paying of the servands.

30*a*. Appointed the agents to pay certain sums to Alexander Gay and other servants.

Next convention.

31. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July next.

Brown, late agent.

32. Granted warrant to William Brown, late agent, to take proceedings for recovery of £4572 Scots of bygone missive dues and fees payable to him.

33. It being represented to the lord conservator, who wes present at the convention, that the Scotts coall transported to Flanders being in custome to pey the conservators dewes wes notwithstanding trubled for payment of dewes to the English consul, which is double dewtie, after which representation the conservator did freely and willingly engadge to relieve all Scotts coall paying dewes to him from payment of any furder dewtie either to the English consul or any uthers. EDINBURGH. 6 July 1683. Scotts coall.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1684.

Edinburgh, Charles Murray, William Watsone; Perth, Patrick Hay; Dundie, John Scrimseur; Aberdeen, David Adie; Stirling, Robert Russell; Linlithgow, Alexander Neilsone; St. Andros, Mr John Eassone; Glasgow, John Barns; Air, William Birsbane; Haddingtoun, John Sleich; Kirkcaldie, Mathew Andersone; Monross, Robert Rennald; Couper, Thomas Lockheart; Dumfrees, John Irwing; Innerness, William Duffe; Bruntisland, Michael Seattoun; Innerkeithing, Robert Bairdie; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce; Brichen, David Liddell; Irwing, James Boyll; Jedburgh, Andrew Ainsly; Kircudbright, John Inglis; Wigtoun, William Coltrat; Dumfermling, Andrew Belfrage; Selkirk, William Wauch; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smallet; Rhenfrew, Robert Hall; Dunbar, James Smith; Lanerk, James Weir; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stevin; Elgin, John Fyffe; Peebles, John Hope; Carraill, William Crawfoord; Culross, James M'Kie; Bamff, William Fyffe; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rutherglen, Andrew Harvie; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Queensferrie, James Hill; Stranraer, Patrick Patersone. (Twenty-six burghs absent). Sederunt.

1 July 1684.

1. George Drummond of Milnenab, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. The commissioners "did suear the test conforme to the usewall manner, and thereftir subscrivit the same." Test.
3. Approved of report by committee appointed to revise the commissions. Commissions.
4. Accepted excuses sent by several burghs for absence. Absent burghs.

2 July 1684.

5. Remitted to a committee "the consideration of the several heads of the missive together with the whole bills and petitions to be presented to the convention." Committee.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1684.

4 July 1684.

Master of the revells.

6. The convention being fullie informed that the master of the revills hes extended his gift from his Majestie farder then he is warranted thairby, and of the many charges of horning given to the inhabitants of burghs that keeps tabills and cairds in their houses for gentlemen's recreation, for preventing wherof they appoynt their agent to use some legall course for suspending the said master of the revills or raiseing action of reduction and declarator against his gift and of the bands he hes extorted from the leidges without any onerous caus.

Act allowing Selkirk 1000 merks.

7. The convention having considered a petition of Selkirk referring to the fine imposed upon the burgh for electing Sir Patrick Murray commissioner to parliament, he not being qualified, and "being sensible that the said burgh was singular, many of the other royall burrows having been in the said delict," and "seeing the said burgh is in a verrie mean and low condition and wold be altogither rowined if some remeid be not provyded," allowed them the sum of a thousand merks Scots, to be paid by the burghs proportionally.

Exemptions.

8. Exempted the burghs of Nairn and Dingwall from sending commissioners to conventions for three years.

Agent to concurre with Wigtoun.

9. The burgh of Wigtoun having represented "that the heretors of the shire of Wigtoun had in effect taken away their weeklie mercats by their keeping mercats within their respective bounds and jurisdictions, and that they had pactioned amongst themselfs and resolved utterly to destroy the said burgh, and in order thereunto had intented action of reduction of their priviledges which they have upon their expenses defended all the last winter session," the convention agreed to concur with the burgh in defending the reduction.

Printed acts of parliament.

10. The convention in ansuer to the petition given in be George Drummond of Blair, late factour in Edinburgh, and John Drummond and George Wedderburne, merchands there, craveing that the burrows wold appoynt their agent to take from them the whole acts of parliament lately printed be them of ane extraordinar letter and weel bound in folio, which they are content to sell at ane easie rate, being tuentie-four punds Scotts for each book, the convention recomends to the whole royall burrows that wants the whole acts of parliament that they may take them from the petitioners for the use of their burgh.

Lanerk.

11. The convention haveing considdered the desires given in be the burgh of Lanerk craveing the royall burrows to assist them in maintaining of their priviledges which are encroatched upon by severall villages near

to the said burgh by selling of merchand goods in prejudice of them, therefor they appoynt the agent to assist and concurre with them against these that encroatches upon the said burghs priviledges upon their own expenses. EDINBURGH. 4 July 1684.

12. The convention having considdered the petition given in be the toun of Kelso, and the recomendation of his Majesties privie councill given in therewith recomending them to the universall charitie of the whole kingdom for ane voluntar contribution for a help and supplie of their sad and desolute condition, occasioned by the late accident of fyre, the convention does earnestly recommend to the whole burghis that hes not alredie made their collection for the said toun of Kelso that they speedily make the said contribution in the samen maner as the burgh of Edinburgh collected the same, which wes by impouering their elders and deacons to goe from famillie to famillie to receive the said contribution. Collection towards rebuilding Kelso.

13. The convention taking into consideration the different attempts which had been made for the removal of the impost of 50 solze per tun paid on Scots ships and vessels trading to France, "and they being resolved to be at a finall poynt in the said matter and not any farder to putt themselfs to the truble to have the said particular a yearly heid of the missive, they find it expedient to send presently ane express to France to negotiate that affaire and to doe all possible and utmost diligence to sie if the same can be made effectual and vpon what condition and terms," therefore they appointed Mr William Aikman, advocate, "to goe both to the court of Ingland and France and to negotiate the same and to take such prudent measures in the conduct and carieing on of such ane important affaire as he shall think fitt upon these places." Comission, Aikman anent downgetting of 50 solze on the tun.

14. The convention renewed and revived all former acts of convention ordaining all royal burghs to conform their measures to the standard of Linlithgow (to be supplied at forty merks the set), and ordained application to be made to the privy council to put the act of parliament as to uniformity of measures into execution in burghs of barony and regality and other places outwith royal burghs. Uniformity of measures.

15. Compeired Mr James Kennedie, conservator, and made report to the convention that he had caused persew the minister of Campheer for the money belonging to the Scotts poore, in respect he had consented to the delivering of severall bands belonging to the poore to the deceist Henry Wilkie, bot that he had declyned the court and judicatorie of Campheer before which he wes cited, and gave his opinion that the said minister should be cited to compeer either before the generall or particular Conservator's report.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1684.

Conservator's report.

convention of burrowis to ansuer for the saids bands, which being considdered be the convention they impouer the conservator to caus cite him to compeare here in Scotland before the convention of burrows at such tyme as he in prudence shall think fitt; and farder, gave ane accompt of his diligence in persewing some theiffs to death who had stollen some goods out of the waire houses in Campheer belonging to Scotts factors; as also that he had protested against the toun of Campheer for detaining 200 lib. Fleems and the factor books belonging to the deciest Thomas Cunighame, and which money aught to have been remitted to the creditors of the said Thomas Cunigham here in Scotland conforme to the severall former acts of burrows.

Comission for setleing staple port.

16. The conservator represented to the convention, both verballie and by severall papers under the factors hands at Campheer which wer red in their audience, bearing the many inconveniences and great prejudice the royall burrows susteans by haveing their staple setled there, inregaird that Campheer is now become a place where Scotts goods gives less rates then at other places, and the cuntrie about is nowayes propper for buying of goods to transporte to this kingdom, which are the tuo main designes and ends for setleing of the staple, and that the toun of Campheer had broken many of the articles of the staple contract which they were oblidged to performe. The convention haveing taken the forsaid representation, with the forsaids papers, to their considderation, they by thir presentis impouers and commissions the said conservator, in case the toun of Campheer make not amends for their breatch of the said contract, to treate with any other cities in Holland, especiallie Rotterdam, and to try what better conditions they will offer in case of the removell of the staple from Campheer, provydeing alwayes that before he make any setlement els where that he acquaint the royall burrows with what the toun of Campheer hes to say in their defence and with the conditions that shall happen to be offered be Rotterdam or any other city in Holland; as lykewayes, provyding that if any alteration hereafter shall happen to be made of the staple porte to any other place than Campheer that the samen be done without any charges to the royall burrows.

Protestation, Dundie and Aberdeen.

17. The comissioners for Dundie and Aberdeen protested against the said comission for thir reasons:—becaus, first, there is no mention of any alteration of the staple port in any article of the missive, and it not being

a head of the missive, cannot at present fall under the considderation of the convention; secondly, that it does not appeare that Campheer has made any breatch in their pairt of the staple contract, and that it being ratefied be his Majestie it cannot be considdered by the convention untill previous address be made to his Majestie thereanent; thirdly, that the removeing of the staple porte from Campheer at this tyme may irritate the magistratts there to seize upon Scotts goods lying there, whereof Aberdeen hes at the present to the value of eight thousand punds sterling, as lykewayes Dundie hes goods their to a considderable value, which reasones are at lenth contained in thair protest. EDINBURGH. 4 July 1684. Protestation, Dundie and Aberdeen.

18. The convention having taken to considderation the article of the missive anent the many inconveniences the whole kingdom, especiallie the royall burrows and particularly the city of Edinburgh, lyes under for want of the summer session, which hinders the circulation of trade and causses a deedness of traffecque through all the corners of the nation during the most and best pairte of the yeare, and haveing lykewayes red and considdered a paper drawen wp be advice of lawers containing most just, true, and excellent reasons for the returne thereof, the convention declaires they are weell satisfied therewith and wisheth heartily that such hermles, inoffensive, decent and legall address may be made to authoritie as may be most effectuall to restoire the same, and impouers the lord provest of Edinburght and the comissioners thereof, with such other of the comissioners of the royall burghs as can be conveniently had, to represent so much to his Majesties ministers of state at the first opportunitie, and that this whole effaire be manadged by their lordships advice. Act anent restoiring of summer session.

19. The convention, in respect the conservator, is willing to pas from the ten stivers upon the last of cornes which he pretends is due to him, they for his farder encuradgment "and for defraying of the charges which he most necessarlie be at in mantaining the dignitie and charactor of ane conservator," empowered him to exact a stiver and a half on each can of wine and half a stiver on each can of beer sold in the consergerie house. They also granted to him £150 sterling in full of all his bypast claims against the burghs. Act, conservator.

20. The convention takeing to considderation that albeit the priviledges, liberties, and freedoms of the estate of the royall burrows is clearlie asserted by known and determined lawes alredie enacted, so that there remains nothing but to putt the samen lawes to execution, yett of M'Kenzie, assessor for the royall burghs.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1684.

late there hes been severall invasions made upon their priviledges, whereof the convention resolves to seek a legall reddress, and it being necessar in carieing on such ane laudable and important designe that a persone of sound and loyall principalls and learned in the lawes be pitched upon to be assessor to the whole royall burrows, and that such honorarie be granted to him as is suteable for the royall burrows to give and for him to accept, since he is to espous and own their interest in consulting and pleading for them in all causes wherein they are concerned; and the convention haveing long experience of the signall and eminent qualifications, both for loyaltie, law, and prudence of Sir George M'Kenzie of Rosehauch, present lord advocat, therefor the convention does be thir presentis unanimouslie elect, nominate, and appoynt the said lord advocat to be their generall assessor, lawer, and advocat for the haill burrows, with whom they will consult and advise in all their effaires and who is to procure and plead for them as aforsaid; and be thir presentis grants and allowes to his lordshipp a yeirlie pension of fyve hundred merks and allowes to his servands yeirlie fyve punds sterling.

M'Kenzie, assessor for the royall burghs.

Act anent the impost in Denmark.

21. The convention ordains a letter to be written to court anent the takeing off the impost layd on be the King of Denmark upon Scotts corn comeing there, as lykways craveing that the Scotts merchands may have freedom of trade to the city of Hamburg by transporting the product and grouth of this kingdome there, and that those concerned in the English staple at Hamburgh may be discharged to truble any Scotts merchand tradeing there, in respect that the contract betuixt the city of Hamburgh and the English merchands does onlie relate to discharge the English subjects who are not concerned in the Hamburgh companie, bot can nowayes extend to the subjects of Scotland who are als free to trade there as any other nation; and this letter to be drawen by thair assessor at sight and be advice of the lord provest of Edinburgh.

Agents accompts.

22. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts extending to £5510 Scots.

Agent, gratuitie.

23. Allowed to the agent a gratuity of £10 sterling.

Bridge of Dumbarton.

24. Ordained the article of the missive anent building of the bridge of Dumbarton to be continued, and recommended each burgh to pay their part of the contribution.

Servands dewes.

25. Ordained the agent to pay fees to Alexander Gay and other servants.

26. Approved of "the draught of the letters to his Royall Highnes, the Earle of Murray and the Lord Prestoun." EDINBURGH. 4 July 1684.

27. The commissioners for Aberdeen and St Andrews protested against the act allowing Mr William Aikman £200, and the commissioner of St Andrews against the money given to Selkirk and £150 allowed the conservator. Letters approvin. Protestation, Aberdeen and St Andros.

28. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July next. Next convention.

29. Ordained the parties to get back the papers produced by them in the debate between the neighbours of Linlithgow and the commissioner of that burgh. Debate, neighbouris of Lithgow.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 16 April 1685.

Edinburgh, Charles Murray, William Watsone; Perth, John Glass; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Sir George Skeen; Stirling, John M'Culloch; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; St Andros, Mr John Easone; Glasgow, John Johnstoun; Air, Robert Huntar; Haddingtoun, John Sleich; Dysarte, David Chrystie; Kirkcaldie, Matthew Andersone; Monross, James Milne; Couper, Andrew Glassfoord; Enstruther Eister, Mr Robert Innes; Dumfrees, William Fingas; Innerness, John Cuthbert; Bruntisland, Michael Seattoun; Innerkeithing, Mr John Dempster; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Francis Mollisone; Irwing, James Boyll; Jedburgh, Andrew Ainslie; Kirkcudbricht, Henrie Moir; Wigtoun, William Coltrane; Pittinweem, James Cook; Dumfermling, Sir Patrick Murray; Selkirk, William Wauch; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollett; Dunbar, James Smith; Lanerk, James Weir; Aberbrothock, John Kidd; Elgin, David Stewart; Peibles, John Govane; Carraill, Mr John Prestoun; Taine, John Forrester; Culross, Sir Alexander Bruce; Bamff, Walter Stewart; Whitthorne, David Forrester; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rothesay, Cuthbert Stewart; Nairne, Alexander Falconer; Forres, Mr James Smith; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Cullen, George Lesly; Lauder, Alexander Home; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmaben, Thomas Kennedie; Sancquher, Robert Carmichaell; Galloway, Robert Alexander; Dingwall, Donald Dingwall; Innerarie, John Mauchline; Forterose, Robert Innes; Cromertie, *expunged*; Kintoir, John Udney; Innerurie, John Andersone; Week, Alexander Mansone; Kirkwall, David Craigie; Innerbervie, William Beattoun; Stanraer, Patrick Patersone; Anstruther Wester, Rhenfrew, Rutherglen Kilrennie, Dornock, and Queensferrie (*blank*). Sederunt.

16 April 1685.

1. Sir George Drummond of Milnenab, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The commissioners subscribed the test in usual manner. Test.

EDINBURGH. 16 April 1685.

Clerkship declared vacant.

3. The present convention considdering that Sir James Rocheid, generall clerk to the burrows, wes allenarlie elected their clerk during their pleasure, and that it is alwayes in their option to continue or lay asyde their clerk when they think fitt, they doe therefor unanimouslie declaire the said Sir James Rocheid his place vaccand.

Richardson, clerk.

4. The present convention of burrows doe unanimouslie elect, nominate, and choise Mr John Richardson, town clerk of Edinburgh, to be generall clerk to the burrows in place of Sir James Rocheid, their late clerk, during the burrows pleasure.

Committee.

5. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions and prepare what business is to be offered to the consideration of the burghs.

17 April 1685.

Commissions.

6. Approved of report by the committee that all the commissions are sufficient.

21 April 1685.

Address to his Majestie, and his high commissioner.

7. The aldress to his Majestie and the address to his high commissioner were publictlie red and approven of by the haill convention and did subscrive the samen and appointed them to be recorded in their generall register, whereof the tenor followes :—To the Kings Most Excellent Majestie, the humble address of the royall burrows of your Majesties antient kingdom of Scotland. Your Majesties royall predicessors considdering that the royall burrows of this kingdom did in a verie immediat and speciall manner depend upon the croun, and haveing by experience fund how firmly they had adheared to them in all parliaments and upon all other occasions, they were therefor graciouslie pleased amongst many other great priviledges to allow them to meett apairt and by themselves as a third state of parliament, and in these their conventions to make speciall applications to them, and now wee your Majesties most duetifull and loyall subjects, being by this singular priviledge conveened at this tyme, have thought it our duetie to express in this our first convention the deep sense wee have of the great loss which wee, as all your Majesties other subjects, have sustained by the death of our late and most gracious Soveraigne, in whom the latest adressers will alwayes find new vertues to admire a monarch whom great pouer could not make arbitrarie nor great

EDINBURGH. 21 April 1685.

Address to his Majestie, and his high commissioner.

pairts uneasie; yett this our heavie affliction does not lessen the extraordinarie joy wee have upon your sacred Majesties happie succession to the croun of your royall ancestors, to which wee acknowledge your Majestie hes right by the unalterable lawes of this your antient kingdom, and that yee hold the same immediatelie from God Almightie alone; and as in the last parliament wee did most unanimously and heartily assert your Majesties right to the succession, so we shall in this parliament and in the whole course of our lives defend your Majesties royall right and prerogatives with such zeale as may prove that wee think ourselves thereto oblidged as good Christians alsweell as faithfull subjects, and that not only all treasonable but even factious and seditious courses are no less impious then unlawfull; and as none of your Majesties subjects have shared more in your bountie or are more oblidged to depend upon the royall authority then the royall burrows are, so wee doe assure your Majestie that we will in a more speciall maner be examplarie to others in their loyaltie, and especiallie in this parliament from which your Majestie may expect intire satisfaction and we full securitie, to the promoteing whereof wee have just occasion to hope that it will not a litle contribute that your Majestie hes chosen the Duke of Queensberrie to represent your sacred Majesties person, wee haveing for severall years bypast observed with great satisfaction how loyallie and justly he hes manadged those great employments with which he hes been formerly entrusted and to whose intercession wee doe with all submission recommend this duetifull and humble address.

Followes the tenor of the address to his Majesties high commissioner: —To his Grace his Majesties high commissioner. The royall burrowes now conveened by his Majesties speciall authoritie humblie represent that wee being by a speciall priviledge allowed to meett as a third state of parliament are verrie glad to have the extraordinarie occasion of signifieing how highlie satisfied wee are that his sacred Majestie hes trusted the manadgment of the great affairs of this his ancient kingdom in the ensueing parliament to your grace who hes evidenced upon all occasions so much loyaltie to the monarchie, so much kyndnes to your native cuntrie, and so much prudence and conduct in the concerns of both; and that both may the better prosper in your graces hands wee doe hereby assure yow that wee will contribute our utmost endeavour to make all

EDINBURGH 21 April 1685.

Address to his Majestie, and his high commissioner.

your graces propposalls in that your eminent station effectuall and successfull, and that wee will carie ourselves so duetifullie and loyallie as may engadge your grace to represent us to the King our master with all the advantadges that wee could wish to ourselves, and so as may procure to the places wee represent the full securitie and just enlargement of those priviledges which have been formerlie bestowed upon them by his Majesties royall predicessors; and that your grace will favourably transmitt to his sacreed Majestie ane humble address which wee are confident will be the more acceptable that it is recommended by your grace.

22 April 1685.

Missive dues.

8. Ordained that the commissioners be liable for the missive dues of their respective burghs.

29 April 1685.

Letter from his Majesty, conservator.

9. The convention haveing receaved ane letter frome his sacreed Majestie in favors of the conservator of the Scotts priviledges in the Netherlands, which being red the convention thought fitt the same be recorded in their books, whereof the tenour followes:—*Sic superscribitur:* JAMES R. Trustie and weellbeloved wee greett yow weell. Whereas we are well informed of the mean and inconsidderable allowance which the conservator hes at present in the Low Cuntries, alsweell as of the great expenss he is at in collecting the same out of the severall shipps that arrive from Scotland, being oblidged to keep and pey a deputie in each province for that effect, and whereas the royall burrows of that our antient kingdom (about whose affairs the conservator is mainly employed) have evir before the late unhappie rebellion provyded a sufficient mantinance for his predicessors suteable to the honor and weight of that painfull employment, wee have now thought fitt earnestlie to recommend his condition to your serious considderation so as yow may take off all these small dues which formerly were payed to the conservator either out of shipps or goods comeing from Scotland into the Netherlands, and in lew therof grante unto him such ane yeirlie certaine sallarie and allowance as may affoord him a comfortable subsistance suteable to the great truble, pains, and expenses in that employment wherein he hath hitherto behaved himself with so much loyaltie, diligence, and integritie as deserves our re-

commendation and your kyndnes in his concerns. In the meanwhile if, in consideration of your granting him ane yeirlie allowance and sallarie as aforsaid, yow shall think fitt to continue the dues that were formerly payed to the conservator out of shipps and goods tradeing from that our kingdom into the Netherlands, wee doe hereby authorize yow so to doe according to law and former custome and to apply the same to the publict use and benefitt of our royall burrows in such manner as to yow shall seem most fitt and reasonable. So, not doubting the good effect of this our royall recommendation, wee bid yow farewell. Given at our court at Whitthall the 18th day of Aprile 1685, and of our reign the first yeare. By his Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* MORRAY. Aftir the reading wherof the convention thought fitt to recommend, lykeas they hereby recommend, to the committie appoynted to considder upon the whole matters offered to the consideration of the convention to considder his Majesties letter and upon a draught of a returne thereto and to report to the convention at their next meetting.

EDINBURGH. 29 April 1685. Letter from his Majesty, conservator.

4 May 1685.

10. The convention unanimously approves of the draught of the letter in ansuer to his royall Majesties letter direct to them in favours of the conservator, and appoynts the same to be recorded, whereof the tenour followis:—May it pleas your sacreed Majestie. We considder your Majesties recommendation in favors of the conservator as what should verrie much oblidge us to secure and better his interest als farr as is possible for us, wee being fully resolved in this and all other cases to looke upon your Majesties desires as commands, knowing that your Majestie will interpose in nothing but what may advance and promove the interest of us your Majesties royall burrows who have so immediate and speciall dependence upon the croun, and therefor we have desired, in ordour to the better obeying your Majesties commands, that the conservator may repaire hither and meett with us either during the meetting of the parliament or at our generall convention in July, to the end wee may adjust with him severall things relateing to our trade and his trust, the course of trade being much altered and the advantage thereof being much impaired from what it wes formerly, both by the communicating our privi-

Letter to his Majesty, conservator.

EDINBURGH. 4 May 1685.

Letter to his Majesty, conservator.

ledges of late to the burghs of barronie and regalitie, who without paying any pairt of our burdeen have the most considderable shaire of our trade, and by the great restraints and prohibitions layd upon our trade by your Majesties kingdoms of England and Ireland; our own prohibitions lykewayes at home have not onlie lessned our trade butt have putt a considderable pairt of it in the hands of servands, chopmen, and other unfreemen, in so farr that by these and other means many of the royall burrows have alredie renunced and more are resolved to renunce their priviledges; all which wee doe with great submission represent to your sacreed Majestie, from whose justice and goodnes wee expect some reddress in what tyme and aftir what manner your Majestie shall think most convenient; and, notwithstanding of all which, such is our deference for your Majesties recommendation that we will goe the utmost lenth to affoord a comfortable subsistance to the conservator, with whom also we will adjust how and where our staple commodities may be best improved, being fullie resolved in that and in all things els to testifie with what submission and loyaltie wee are, may it pleas your Majestie, your Majesties most humble, most duetifull, most obedient servands and subjects, the royall burrows of Scotland. Signed by Sir George Drummond, provest of Edinburgh, præses.

Letters to lord secretaries and conservator.

11. The convention appoynts a letter to be written to the lord secretaries, and ane other to the conservator, in relation to the matter mentioned in the foresaid letter, and all of them to be signed by the præses in name of the convention.

Expunging Cromartie from roll of royal burghs.

12. The present convention haveing considdered the act of parliament bearing date the tenth day of July j^{m} vj^{c} seventie tuo years, granted in favours of the burgh of Cromertie, allowing and accepting of their dimission and resignation of their priviledges as a free burgh royall to remaine with his Majestie *ad perpetuam remanentiam*, and ordaining the name of the burgh of Cromertie to be expunged out of the rolls of parliament, and that thereaftir the said burgh of Cromertie have no commissioner from them to parliament nor meetting of the royall burrows, and that thereaftir it be no more reckoned nor accompted a burgh royall; as lykewayes haveing taken to considderation ane act of his Majesties privie councill dated at Edinburgh the tuentie fourth day of September j^{m} vj^{c} fourscoi rone yeirs, dischargeing any further execution at the instance of the agent for the royall burrows or at the instance of the collector-

generall, or at the instance of any other upon the accompt of their not payment of any pairt of the supplie imposed upon them as a burgh royall, by poynding, quartering, or any other maner of way, inregaird by the foresaid act of parliament they are declaired no burgh ; therefore the convention, in obedience of the said act of parliament, doe unanimouslie condescend to expunge, lykeas they be thir presents expunges the said burgh of Cromertie out of the roll of the royall burrows and discharges them hencefurth to be listed or called on either at their generall or particular conventions of burghs, but prejudice to the agent for the royall burrows to use diligence against the said burgh for any bygane missive dewes proceeding the date of the forsaid act of parliament.

EDINBURGH. 4 May 1685.

Expunging Cromartie from roll of royal burghs.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1685.

Edinburgh, Charles Murray, William Watsone ; Perth, Alexander Blair ; Dundie, John Duncan ; Aberdeen, Walter Robertsone ; Stirling, John M'Culloch ; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne ; Glasgow, John Johnstoun ; Air, Robert Huntar ; Haddingtoun, John Sleich ; Kirkcaldie, William Tennant ; Montrose, James Milne ; Dumfrees, John Irwing ; Innerness, John Fraiser ; Innerkeithing, Mr John Dempster ; Kinghorne, Robert Bruce ; Pittinweem, James Cook ; Dumferling, Sir Patrick Murray ; Selkirk, William Wauch ; Dumbarton, Mr James Smollet ; Dunbar, James Hamiltoun ; Peibles, John Govane ; Carraill, Mr John Prestoun ; Forres, Mr James Smith ; Rutherglen, Andrew Harvie ; Northberwick, Charles Maitland ; Lauder, Alexander Home ; Sancquher, Robert Carmichaell ; Queensferrie, James Hill. [Thirty-seven burghs *blank*.]

Sederunt.

7 July 1685.

1. The present convention do adjourn their meeting till the next day at ten o'cloak. Adjournment.

8 July 1685.

2. Sir George Drummond of Milnenab, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
3. The commissioners took the test in usual manner. Test.
4. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Committee.
5. On report of committee approved of the commissions. Commissions.
6. Appointed a committee to prepare all matters to be considered by the convention. Committee.
7. The commissioners found the letters of excuse for absence by St. Andros and Absents.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1685.

Anstruther Eister insufficient, rejected the same and imposed the usual fine on these burghs.

Excuses for absence.

8. Admitted the excuses for absence of the burghs of Elgin, Bamff, Kirkcudbricht and Rhenfrew.

Exemption, Kirkwall.

9. Exempted the burgh of Kirkwall from payment of a fine for not sending a commissioner to the general convention "in respect the said burgh lyes at a great distance from this place."

9 July 1685.

Lord Prestoun.

10. Appointed a "letter of thanks to be written to the Lord Viscount of Prestoun for his cair and diligence in useing his endeavoure to gett doun that heavie burdeen of fiftie solze upon the tun of Scotts ships tradeing to France."

Impost, France.

11. Approved of report by the committee anent Mr William Aikman who was sent to France as to removal of the impost of 50 solze the tun.

Pensions payable by royal burghs.

12. The convention takeing to their serious considderation the manie heavie and insupportable burdeens that lyes upon the royall burrows, which hes occasioned severall burghs alredie to resigne their priviledges as royall burrows and will undoubtedlie in a shorte tyme occasion many other burghs to doe the lyke, so that in the end the whole burdeen imposed upon the royall burrows will light upon these burghs that are standing burghs if remedie be not provyded, and considdering that the pensions peyable be them to the persons employed to doe them service conforme to the severall acts of burrows establishing the saids pensions upon them are verrie considderable and a great pairte of the missive dues that is yeirlie due to the agent, therefor the present convention have rescinded and hereby rescinds all former acts establishing pensions upon the persones that does service to the royall burghs, excepting the clerk, agent, and other present servands that attends the generall and particular conventions, their fees yeirlie allowed to them; declairing alwayes, lyke as it is heirby declaired that whatevir persons in publict trust, lawers and others that shall happen to be employed in any of the generall concerns of the royall burrows to doe them service, that it shall be still in the pouer of the convention to gratifie the saids persones according to their qualetie and pains. Sir Robert Baird, assessor to the dean of gild of Edinburgh, commissioner, and Deacon Watsone, the other commissioner, protested against the said act.

13. Allowed the clerk, who had "been at extraordinarie pains during the last convention," a gratuity of three hundred merks. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1685.

14. Ordained the burghs to pay their shares of the agent's accounts extending to £8617, 16s. Scots. Amongst the items are the following: "item, Mungo Murray for his verses, at the provests ordor, 11 lib., 12s. The haill expenses in the bussines in takeing away the master of the revills gift, consulting advocats, drawing and giving in petitions, extracting and intimating acts, 240 lib." Gratuitie, clerk. Agents accompts.

15. The convention considering that "Master James Elphingstoun their agent is in ane great advance of money for the royall burrows, farr above any other agent before the said Mr James, and hes been at great and extraordinarie pains in the burrows affairs," allowed him six hundred pounds Scots. Elphingstoun, agent.

16. Empowered the agent to place proportionally among the burghs the missive dues addebted by Anstruther Wester, Kilrennie, and Cromartie "who have resigned their priviledges as royal burghs." Anstruther Wester, Kilrennie, Cromartie.

17. Discharged the conservator to pursue any of the royall burghs except before the convention. Conservator, royal burghs.

18. Exempted the burghs of Forres, Kirkwall, Week, and Innerbervie from attending conventions for three years. Exemptions.

19. The conservator not having appeared to adjust matters conform to his Majesties letter to the burghs, consideration of the same was delayed till next convention. Kennedie, conservator.

20. The convention considering that many burgesses are "persewed upon oath before the supream judicatorie for meane and inconsiderable soums at the instance of the masters of wooll and tow caird manufactorie upon the alledged encroachment upon their gifts," ordained the agent to make application to the privy council or lords of session that the oaths of such burgesses may be taken by the magistrates of the burghs where they reside. Burgesses, judicatories.

21. Unlawed the burghs absent in £100 Scots each. Unlaws, absence.

22. Ordained the agent to pay certain sums to Alexander Gay and other servants. Servants fees.

10 July 1685.

23. The convention recommends to the agent to extract that decreit of exhibition obtained against Sir James Rocheid, late clerk to the royall burrows, before the lords of his Majestie's privie councill, for deliverie of these papers concerning the Scotts priviledges in France, and particularlie the priviledges of the royall burrows, and to putt the said decreit to due execution against the said Sir James ay and while the saids papers be delivered up, and discharges the agent to expend above tuentie dollers in that affaire. Rocheid, late clerk.

24. Appoints the agent to pay to Mr John Alexander, minister, ten rex dollars. Alexander, minister.

25. Ordained the agent to pay the burgh of Northberwick £200 towards the reparation of their harbour. Northberwick.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1685.

26. Dissolved the present meeting, and appoints the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July next.

Nixt convention.

Protest Innerkeithing.

The comissioner for Innerkeithing protested that the appoynting the generall convention to sitt at Edinburgh or any other place might be but prejudice of ane act of parliament in favouris of the said burgh of Innerkeithing anent the meeting of the burroues at that burgh as he alledges.

EDINBURGH. 13 April 1686.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Magnus Prince and Thomas Somervaill; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Alexander Gordoun; Stirling, John M'Culloch; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; St Andrews, Mr John Easson; Glasgow, John Johnstoun; Air, William Cuningham; Haddingtoun, William M'Call; Kirkcaldie, Mathew Anderson; Bruntisland, Michaell Seatoun; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Dumfermling, Sir Patrick Murray; Dumbartoun, William M'Farling; Dumbar, William Kirkwood; Peibles, John Govan; Culross, Sir Alexander Bruce; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Perth, Montrose, Couper, Irving, Pittenweem and Aberbrothock (*blank*).

13 April 1686.

Presses.

1. Sir Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill, provost of Edinburgh, elected presses.

Test sworn.

2. The commissioners took the test.

Comittie.

3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions and "prepair what things is necessary to be treated of in this particular convention."

14 April 1686.

Comissions.

4. Approved of report by committee as to commissions.

Fines absence.

5. The convention fined the burghs absent in the usual unlaw.

Letter from the Viscount of Melfort to the royall borrows.

6. The present convention appoynts the letter direct from the Viscount Melfort, secretary of state for this kingdome, to be recorded, whereof the tenor followes:—For the commissioners of the royall burrowes. Whythall, the eight of Appryll j^{m} vj^{c} eighty sex years. Right Honorable. Being informed that there is a meetting to be of the commissioners of the royall burrows about the midle of this moneth, I thought it incumbent for me to let you know that his Majestie, out of his earnest desyre to promote the interest and advancement of trade in that his ancient kingdome, has been graciously pleased to instruct his commissioner

to concur in all things convenient that shall be proposed by yow for that effect, but in regaird the enshewing session of parliament is not like to be of long continuance it is fit that with all dilligence ye prepare such proposalls as yow judge proper to be offered to the commissioner upon this occasion, to the end that noe tyme may be lost in his transmitting the same to the King and his receiving his Majesties pleasure therwpon in due time befor the end of the said session of parliament; and if you can haue your proposalls ready to be sent hither to me befor the comissioners arrivall ther the more time will be saved therby and the best account therof to your satisfactioun shall be returned that is in the power of your most humble servant. *Sic subscribitur*, MELFORT. By this ye sie it most be your owne faults if this be not the most advantagious session for the royall borrows they have seen these many years.

EDINBURGH. 14 April 1686.

Letter from the Viscount of Melfort to the royall burrows.

7. Approved of "ane draught of ane act of parliament to be offered to the lords of the articles in favores of the royall borrows in relation to the reponing of the royall borrows against the priviledges granted to the burghs of regality and barronie as to ther freedome of exporting and importing comodities to and from this kingdome which they have libertie to export and import conform to act of parliament 1672;" and remitted to the commissioners of Edinburgh, Lithgow, and Culros to prepare a letter to be sent to Viscount Melfort with the draught.

Draught act of parliament.

15 April 1686.

8. The drawght of the letter appoynted to be sent by the present convention to the secretarie of state, wherewith the draught of the act of parliament condescended wpon and red the last meeting is to be sent, wes red and approven and signed by the lord provost of Edinburgh, preses, in name of the convention, and appoynted to be recorded, whereof the tenor followes:—Edinburgh the fyftein day of Appryll j^{m} vj^{c} eighty sex years. Right Honorable. Wee haue receaved your lordships very obleidging letter and doe render yow our most hearty and humble thanks for your care and freindship in directing us how to move in our owne affaires; wee doe alsoe with great satisfaction observe his Majesties gracious inclination towards the weelfair of our estait signified to us by your letter and mor particularly expressed in his Majesties gracious letter to his secreit councell relaiting to a freedome of trade with Ingland, for which, amongst other marks of his Majesties royall favor, wee hold ourselves indispensiblie obleidged, eminently and vigorously, to give all possible demonstration of

Letter to Viscount Melfort.

EDINBURGH. 15 April 1686. Letter to Viscount Melfort.

our dewtie. Wee have bein considdering the matters of trade, and for the present shall only represent to your lordship that the royall borrowes of this kingdome, whoe haue euer been the manadgers and cariers on of the trade of the samen and for which they are charged with a very great share of publict taxes, have of late suffered and doos still suffer unspecable prejudice and loss by having ther priviledges communicat by ane act of parliament in anno j^{m} vj^{c} sevinty two yeirs to the burghs of barronie and regality, whoe being free of any pairt of the said taxes are able and will infalliblie in tyme ingros the wholl trade to themselues, to our utter ruine; for remeid wherof we haue transmitted to your lordship a scroll of ane act in which we pretend not to be restored to all the priviledges wherof wee wer formerly possessed bot only to some necessarie ones, being willing to communicat many others to which we had right to the burghs of barronie and regality as your lordship will perceave by comparing the act of parliament therwith. Wee doe furder intreat your Lordships assistance to represent unto his Majestie the great prejudice the royall borrowes sustaines by the contentious humours of some of ther inhabitants concerning ther magistrats and other burgesses befor his Majesties councell, wher the debaite proves long and expenssive, sometyme to the ruin of the burgh and great discouradgement of magistracie, wheras formerly the royall borrowes wpon ther comon expenss ordored some of ther number to repair to the burgh wher the debaite wes, with power to them to setle all differences relaiting to ther trade and government, and these hes been inviolablie observed since the first constitution of the royall borrowes, untill the year j^{m} vj^{c} and sevinty seven, and as to this wee doe with all humility hope that his Majestie will be graciously pleased to give some instructions to his commissioner or take such other course as his Majestie in his royall wisdome shall think fitt for preventing the lyke in tyme coming. These things wee doe with all humility represent to his Majestie, and we earnestlie beg of your lordship that ye will be pleased to consider the necessity of them is very great, and that without them it will be very hard if not impossible to preserve the trade of this nation from such ane exceissive decay as shall for want of ability render us utterly incapable to performe these services that wee soe zealouslie affect; bot what ever way it shall pleas his Majestie to dispose of us and our concerns wee intreat your lordship to assure his Majestie that wee will to the last extremitie

preserve a deep sense of our dewty and interest, according to our power give evidence that wee are his faithfull and loyall subjects, and that wee are sensible it is both our dewty in this approaching session of parliament and all other occasions to concurr in eueric thing that may tend to his Majesties satisfaction and to the advancement of his Majesties honor, interest, and greatnes. Wee expect your lordships tymous assistance in these our just desyres soe as the obtaining of them may not be prevented by the shortnes of this session; and we shall euer acknouledge ourselves to be, right honorable, your lordships most humble servants. Signed in name and at the desyre of the royall borrowes. *Sic subscribitur*: THO. KENNEDY, preses.

EDINBURGH. 15 April 1686. Letter to Viscount Melfort.

9. The convention considering that Sir James Rocheid of Innerleith is for the present at London and hes bein alreadie verie active in the concerns of the royall borrowes the tyme he hes bein vp on the place, which they are very sensible of, doe therefor think fit that ane letter be direct to the said Sir James, to be signed by the lord provest of Edinburgh, preses, in name of the convention, that he may continow in his dilligence and caire of the royall borrowes concernes and frequently put the lord secretary of stait in mynd of the same, the drawght wherof being red wes unanimouslie approven by the present convention and the same wes appoynted to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes:—For Sir James Rocheid of Innerleith. Edinburgh, the fyftein day of Appryll j^{m} vj^{c} eighty sex yearis. Sir, wee haveing received from the lord secretarie Melfort a letter of great kyndnes and satisfaction have returned his lordship this inclosed answer, wherof ther is a double for your perusall that ye may wnderstand how our affaires are stated and accordingly may apply to his lordship in our behalf. Wee doubt nothing of your good inclination to assist us, and therefor it is that we put yow to this trouble to agent the desyre of our letter to his lordship and to keep correspondence with the lord provost of Edinburgh in euerie thing ye think relates to the interest of the royall borrowes which will very much obleidge us whoe are, sir, your affectionat freinds and servands. Signed at the desyre of the royall burrowes by, *sic subscribitur*, THO. KENNEDY, preses.

Letter to Sir James Rocheid.

10. The convention recomends to the preses and the comissioners for Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Culross, and such other of the comissioners shall happen to be vpon this place, to consider the acts of parliament made in

Meeting of the borrowes.

EDINBURGH. 15 April 1686. Meeting of the borrowes.

favoures of the royall borrowes and the customs of the borrowes these hundred years bygane, and to prepare the same against the nixt generall convention, and appoynts all the commissioners present this day to meit at the towne councell house wpon Twesday cum eight dayes at ten houres in the foirnoone.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 27 April 1686.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Sir George Drummond and William Watson; Perth, John Glass; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeene, George Skene; Stirling, John M'Culloch; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; St Andrews, Mr John Essone; Glasgow, John Johnstoun; Air, Robert Huntar; Haddingtoun, John Sleich; Dysart, Dauid Chrysty; Kirkcaldie, Matthew Anderson; Montross, James Milne; Cowper, Andrew Glassfoord; Enstruther Eister, Mr Robert Innes; Innerness, John Cuthbert; Bruntisland, Michaell Seatoun; Innerkeithing, Mr John Dempster; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Francis Molison; Irving, James Boyll; Jedburgh, Andrew Ainslie; Kirkcudbright, John Callender; Wigtoun, William Coltran; Pittenweem, James Cook; Dumfermling, Sir Patrick Murray; Selkirk. William Wauch; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smallet; Dumbar, James Smith; Lanerk, James Weir; Aberbrothock, John Kidd; Elgin, Dauid Stewart; Peibles, John Govan; Carraill, Mr John Preston; Taine, John Forrester; Culross, Sir Alexander Bruce; Bamff, Walter Stewart; Whythorn, David Forrester; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rothesay, Cuthbert Stewart; Nairn, Alexander Falconer; Forres, Mr James Smith; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Cullen, George Leslie; Lawder, Alexander Home; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmaben, Thomas Kennedy; Sancquhar, Robert Carmichaell; Galloway, Robert Alexander; Dingwall, Donald Dingwall; Queensferrie, James Hill; Innerarie, John Mauchlane; Forterose, Robert Innes; Kintoir, John Vdney; Innerurie John Anderson; Week, Alexander Manson; Kirkwall, David Cragie; Innerbervie, William Beatoun; Stanraer, Patrick Paterson; Dumfreis, Anstruther Wester, Rhenfrew, Rutherglen, Kilrennie, and Dornoch (*blank*).

27 April 1686.

Preses.

1. Sir Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Test.

2. The commissioners took the test.

28 April 1686.

Letter from the secretary of state.

3. The present convention having caused read the copie of the Kings Majesties letter direct to his Majesties privie councill concerning the

matter of trade, and having alsoe caused read the viscount of Melfort, secretary of state, his letter direct to the royall burrowes, recorded amongst the acts made the last particular convention, and their answer made thereto, and the drawght of the act of parliament sent therwith to the lord secretary of state, and his return to the said letter direct to this present convention, they appoynted the said return from the secretary to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes: Whythall, 22 Apryle 1686. Right Honorable. I receaved your letter of the 15th Aprill and haue made no delay in obtaining his Majesties gracious answer to the humble demands therin mentioned. As to the first wherof, his Majesty commands me to assure yow that he has fullie instructed his comissioner in the affaire so as yow who on the account of trade and priviledge pay the sixth pairt of the cess of the kingdome may haue the benefit of that trade ye pay for, and his Majesty doubts not but the parliament will advise him justly in the matter and for your interest. As for your desires concerning the judging of differences amongst yourselues, his Majesty being so late acquainted with it can give no determinate answer till he has advised it below which his Majesty will doe with all speed and give yow the best answer his service will allow in the affaire. The King is not only proceiding in the matter of a free trade with England, but has instructed his commissionar in many things tending to your advantage which in dew tyme his grace will communicat to yow. For my own pairt, as I find in his Majesty a royall and generous inclination to restore your soe much decayed trade, and to doe all that may make the kingdome in generall, and most especiallie yow his royall borroughs, live in peace, prosperitie, and plenty, soe I shall not be wanting to doe all on my pairt to promove a work his Majesty is soe much concerned in and by which yow will receave soe great advantadge, not doubting but as yow have alwayes had your intire dependance on the croune when the concerne wes les minded, you will on all occasions, especiallie in this enshewing session of parliament, show the zealous duty ye have for the best of kings and most generous of benefactors. The early and full promises contained in yours to me leaves in me no doubt of your dutefullnes, and I doe humblie assure yow that soe long as yow are soe to him I shall never faill to be, right honowrable, your most humble servant, *sic subscribitur*, MELFORT.

EDINBURGH. 28 April 1686. Letter from the secretary of state.

4. The convention agrees that when his Majesties high comissioner

Matters to be brought before parliament.

EDINBURGH. 28 April 1686.

Matters to be brought before parliament.

his instructions are knowne as to the concerns of the royall burrows that the present comissioners have ther thoughts what is fit to be offered in parliament as to the matter of trade and the mentinance of the priviledges of the royall burrowes furder then what is contained in the drawght of the said act of parliament, and that the same be presented to the convention at their next meeting in write, which meeting they appoynt to be as the lord provest of Edinburgh, preses of the convention, shall find occasion to call the same.

17 May 1686.

Excise on malt.

5. The convention being informed there is ane act past in the articles to be brought in to the parliament appoynting these in the royall burrows that brewes malt for ther privat vse and is not vendit and sold should pay two merks of excyse for each boll of malt browen be them, for a help to make vp the quota of the King's annuity, wheras these that are not heritors in the countrie whoe brewes for ther oune privat vse are not burdened with that excyse, doe therefor conclud it as ther opinion that each comissionar of the borrowes vse ther indeavours for preventing the passing of the said act in parliament, it being a generall concern of the borrowes.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1686.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Magnus Prince and Thomas Somervaill; Perth, Patrick Hay; Dundie, Patrick Balneves; Aberdeen, Patrick Divvie; Stirling, John M'Culloch; Linlithgow, Alexander Milne; St Andrews, Thomas Finlay; Glasgow, John Barnes; Haddingtoun, William M'Caul; Kirkcaldie, John Ferguson; Montrose, Robert Rennald; Cowper, Mr John Malcolme; Dumfries, John Irving; Inverness, David Palson; Bruntisland, Michaell Setoun; Innerkeithing, John Henderson; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Francis Molison; Jedburgh, Robert Ainslie; Dumfermling, Andrew Walker; Selkirk, William Wauch; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Rhenfrew, Peter Paterson; Dunbar, William Kirkwood; Lanerk, James Weir; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stiven; Elgin, Alexander Dumbar; Peibles, John Govan; Carraill, William Craufoord; Culross, Sir Alexander Bruce; Bamff, Frederick Ogilvie; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rutherglen, Andrew Haruie; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Lawder, Alexander Home; Queensferry, James Hill; Anstruther Eister, Kirkcudbright, Wigtoun, and Pittenweem, *excused;* Forres, *exeimed.* (Nineteen burghs *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1686.

6 July 1686.

1. Sir Thomas Kennedy, provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The commissioners took the test. Test.

3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions and prepare what is necessary to be offered for the consideration of the convention. Comittie.

7 July 1686.

4. Approved of report of the committee on commissions. Commissions.

5. The convention, considering that Anstruther Wester and Kilrennie have renounced the privileges of royal burghs, and that thereby the burden of their public dues may fall on the other burghs, appointed a committee to inquire into their condition "to the end the saids burghs may dispon ther said comon good in favors of the royall burghs for their releif." The committee were also instructed to inquire and report as to the condition of Dysart and Anstruther Eister, who have no magistrates and are deficient in paying their public dues. Anstruthers Wester and Easter, Kilrennie, Dysart.

6. The convention desired the burghs who have not done so to make the voluntary contribution appointed for Dumbarton for help towards building their bridge over the Leven. Dumbarton bridge.

7. The convention taking to thair consideration that Mr John Ritchardson, generall clerk to the borrowes, wes allenarly elected ther clerk during ther pleasure, and that it is alwayes in ther option to continow or lay asyd ther clerk when they think fitt, and considering that Sir James Rocheid of Innerleith, present toun clerk of Edinburgh, hes during the space he wes clerk to the royall burrowes and since done many good offices and services to the royall burrowes and is reddie upon all occasions to doe them service, therefor they declair the said Mr John Ritchardson as generall clerk to the burrowes his place (efter the disolving of this present generall convention) vaccand, and doe heirby elect, nominat, and choyse the said Sir James Rocheid to be generall clerk to the saids royall burrows in place of the said Mr John Ritchardson during the pleasure of the royall burrowes. Electing Sir James Rocheid clerk.

8. Appointed a committee to revise the agent's accounts and his diligence against the absent burghs. Agents accompts.

9. Mr John Richardson, present clerk to the borrowes, produced ane order under the hands of the lord chancellor, Duke of Hamilton, and Acts transmitted to secretary of state.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1686.

borrowes, and to endeavour some setlement with the conservator anent that matter, and to report his dilligence as to his progres therin to the nixt particular or generall conventions.

Exemptions.

16. Exempted the burghs of Tain and Cullen from sending commissioners to conventions for three years.

Aberbrothock, £200 Scots.

17. On the petition of the burgh of Aberbrothock, "mentioning their impovirished conditione, mainlie occasioned by the lose of the best ships belonging to the said burgh and throu ther late repairing of ther harbour and the yearly expenses they are at in vpholding of the same," the convention directed the fines imposed on Air and Irving to be paid to the petitioners.

Clerk, agent, servants.

18. Ordained certain gratuities and fees to be paid to the clerk, agent and servants.

Act anent Peter Braus, cards.

19. The convention considering that the royall borrowes sustaines great prejudice be Peter Braus who hes procured from his Majesties privie councill ane late gift prohibiting the importing, vending, and selling off playing cards but such as are made be him, and hes raised generall letters thervpon and charged many of the inhabitants within thair saids burghs that are not guilty of selling or importing any forraigne playing cards, they doe therefor appoynt ther agent to give in a bill of suspension to the lords of his Majesties privie councill for suspending the saids letters and generall charge, and recomends to the burgh of Edinburgh and other nixt adjacent burghs to assist the agent in procuring of the said suspension.

Drawing Mr Alexander Skeen [illegible] works

20. The convention appoynts Mr James Elphingstoun, ther agent, to give to Mr Alexander Skeen the soume of fyve hundred merkes Scots money for some books gifted be him to this present convention intituled (*blank*).

Convention.

21. The convention dissolved the present meitting and appoyntes the nixt generall convention of the royall borroues to be halden at Edinburgh the first Twesday of July 1687.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1686.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Magnus Prince and Thomas Somervaill; Perth, Patrick Hay; Dundie, Alexander Raitt; Aberdeen, David Adie; Stirling, Hugh Kennedy; Linlithgow, Alexander Smith; St Andros, Sir William Sharp; Glasgow, John Barnes; Air, William Cuningham: Haddingtoun, Sir William Paterson; Kirkcaldie, James Lundie; Montross, John Coutts; Couper, Mr John Malcolm;

Anstruther Eister, Captain William Anstruther; Dumfreis, John Maxwell; Inverness, Robert Barbour; Bruntisland, Alexander Ged; Innerkeithing, Patrick Kininmound; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, James Coway; Irving, Mr John Boyd; Jedburgh, Andrew Ainsly; Wigtoun, William Coltran; Pittinween, James Cook; Dumfermling, Andrew Walker; Selkirk, William Wauch; Dumbartoun, Thomas Walker; Rhenfrew, Robert Hall; Dunbar, Sir Adam Blair; Lanerk, Robert Huntar; Aberbrothock, John Kyd; Elgin, Mr Alexander Grant; Peibles, John Govan; Carraill, William Crawford; Culross, James Mackie; Bamff, George Lesly; Rutherglen, Andrew Harvie; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Lauder, David Maitland; Queensferry, William Algeo; Stanraer, Patrick Paterson; Nairn, *exeimed.* (Twenty-four burghs *blank.*) EDINBURGH. 5 July 1687. Sederunt.

5 July 1687.

1. Sir Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Sir James Rocheid, elected at last convention, accepted the office of clerk. Rocheid, clerk.

3. Appointed a committee to consider the commissions and prepare the business of the convention. Committee.

6 July 1687.

4. Approved of report by committee on the commissions and dispensed with any informality. Commissions.

5. Appointed a committee to audit the agent's accounts. Agent's accounts.

6. Ordained the agent to pay the pensions to the Earl of Murray and the Earl of Melfort, principal secretaries of state. Secretaries of state.

7 July 1687.

7. Having taken into consideration the 15th act of last general convention, and having read over the gift to the conservator of the imposition on Scots ships trading to the Netherlands, in which it is expressly stated that the imposition shall be redeemable by the royal burghs for £400 sterling yearly; and there being an offer by the commissioners of Aberdeen and Kirkcaldie to find security for payment of £500 sterling yearly for five years, they obtaining power to uplift the dews contained in the conservator's gift, the convention accepted of the offer on condition that any other burghs may be admitted as partners before next meeting, and remitted to the preses to ascertain what less sum than £400 the conservator will accept and to agree with him. The preses was also directed to write to the conservator "that in caise he have necessary occasion to repair to Hamburgh, that he doe his outmost endeavour for the interest of the trade of this nation in that place, for which the burrowes will be gratefull to him, and incaise he have noe other affaires bot to goe ther expresly for the interest of the Act anent conservator's gift.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1687.

trade of this natione, he may signiife to the lord provost what his charges will extend to, to the effect the royall borrowes may know whether it be ther interest to commissionat him expresly to repair to Hamburgh for negotiating ther affaires."

Commissioners expenses.

8. The convention statutes and ordaines that in all tyme coming the commissioneris of burghs that shall be appoynted to visit the condition of any royall burghs wpon ther supplication that the saids commissioners shall repair to the respective burghs wpon the charge and expenses of that burgh that shall supplicat for the same.

Act anent Kilrenny.

9. The conventione taking to consideratione the petition given in be the burgh of Kilrenny craving to be expunged out of the borrow rolls and free of all bygane publict burdens, ordanes befor they give thair ansuer to the petition that the most considerable inhabitants of the said burgh, old magistrats and others whoe best knowes the condition of the said burgh, to compeir befor the nixt generall convention and to answer to such interrogators concerning the rights, comon good, and state of the place, as they shall be interrogat upon by the said convention, to th effect a clear discovery may be made whether they ought to continow as a member of the royall borrows and to pay ther proportion of the taxt roll.

Kirkcaldy, Montrose.

10, 11. On the supplications of Kirkcaldy and Montrose for ease from public burdens, the convention appointed committees to enquire into the condition of the burghs and to report.

Act anent Elgine.

12. Granted authority to the burgh of Elgin to set in feu or long tacks the lands pertaining to them called the Cattailis and Greens; and appointed a committee to report on the condition of the burgh.

Renfrew.

13. Agreed to advance to the burgh of Renfrew 500 merks Scots towards rebuilding their tolbooth, and appointed a committee to report on the condition of the burgh.

Dunlop, gratuity.

14. Allowed to Mr Alexander Dunlop, advocate, clerk to the burgh rolls of exchequer, £100 Scots of gratuitie for his bygone service.

15. Allowed to Veatch of Dayick, presenter of the signatures of exchequer, who has given "ther agent frequent adverticement when any signator wes precented wher any of the borrowes wer concerned," £60 Scots for the bygone years' service.

Act anent Dysart.

16. On the petition of the burgh of Dysart "mentioning that they have had noe magistrats this three years bygane by reasone of their want of trade, and that they have noe comon good, their harbour and crofts which is the only comon good they had which is evicted from them by a persute of law at the instance of my Lord Sinclar, and that they are resting considerable debts to ther creditors," and craving exemption from bygone missive dues, the convention appointed the dues to be paid and recommended the condition of the burgh to be considered at next general convention.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1687.

17. Exempted the burgh of Nairn from sending commissioners to conventions for three years. Exemption, Nairn.

18. Exempted the burghs of Air and Irving from payment of fines imposed upon them for absence from last general convention. Air and Irving, fines.

19. The convention revived the 22d act of the general convention of July 1683, and ordained the commissioners to come to the conventions instructed as to what particular burgesses of their burghs are partners of unfree persons. Act anent burgesses being partners with unfreemen.

20. Ordained the agent to write to the conservator to seek redress of the abuse against John Gordon, factor at Campheer, in several exactions taken from him by the workmen of Campheer. Gordoun, factor at Campheer.

21. The convention having red the letter from the conservator wherein mentione is made, at least is insinuat, by him that in the late treatie betuixt our King and the King of Denmark that the interest of the trade of this kingdome is comprehended in that treatie als weell as Ingland, the convention recomends to the lord provost of Edinburgh to wryt to the Earle of Melfort, principall secretary of state, to know how far the trade of this nation is concerned by the said treaty. Letter to secretary of state.

22. Continued an article of the missive as to the measures of Linlithgow, ordained the price of a set to be 45 merks, and directed proceedings to be taken for putting acts in force. Act anent measures of Linlithgow.

23. A letter having been received from Mr Gordon, factor at Campheir, to James Elphinston, agent, as to money belonging to the creditors of the late Thomas Cuninghame, the convention considered the letter unsatisfactory, and appointed the agent again to write for a remittance of the money. Creditors of Thomas Cuninghame, factor.

24. The convention taking to ther consideration the first article of the missive anent the qualifications of ther commissioners to generall and particular conventions, declaires that in tyme coming the said qualifications shall not be understood to comprehend such commissioners as shall be nominat magistrats or councellors of the royall burrowes by the Kings Majestie, bot leaves it arbitrary to such burghs to insert or not insert in their commissions the forsaid qualifications contaned in former platformes as they shall think fitt, and ordanes this declaration to be subjoyned to the first article of all subsequent missives to generall conventions of burrowes. Qualifications of commissioners.

8 July 1687.

25. The convention being informed that Sir Adam Blair, commissioner for the burgh of Dunbar, is going to court, they doe earnestlie Earle of Melfort, affaires of burrowes.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1687.

recomend to him to represent to the Earle of Melfort, principall secretary of state, the great prejudice many of the royall burrowes sustaines by the Dutch bushes ther fishing within sight of land, contrair to the treaty betuixt his Majestie and States of Holland, and the pressors they lye under by burghs of regalities and barronies, and the great imposts laid on the Scots goods by the King of Denmark and Swedden, and that he wold doe his outmost endeavor to obtaine some redres, which the borrowes declaires shall be most acceptable service done to them, and recomends to the said Sir Adame Blair to keep frequent correspondence with the provest of Edinburgh anent what success he expects to get done in these affaires.

Earle of Melfort, affaires of burrowes.

Agents accounts.

26. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements extending to £3696, 3s. 4d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their shares.

Elphinston, agent.

27. Allowed to James Elphinston, agent, who has resigned his office a gratuity of £600 Scots and another of £400 Scots.

9 July 1687.

Payment of fees.

28. Allowed certain fees to Alexander Gay and other servants.

Act anent salt-masters, monopolie.

29. The preses represented to the convention that ther being a designe of the salt masters to inhaunce and make ane monopolie of salt in prejudice of the royall borrowes, which he wes at great paines to withstand and at last prevailled to get the samen waved and delayed, bot knowes not how soon the said project may be revived, the conventione declaires they are very sensible of his lordships care and diligence in that affaire and againe recomends to his lordship that incaice any such project should be set on foot heirefter that his lordship will continow his care in preventing of it, and impowers the agent to follow his directions in the matter, and requyres any of ther number that shall happen to be present when any such project shall be walkned to assist and concur with his lordship in the said matter.

Taxt roll.

30. The convention taking into consideration the 21st act of the general convention of July 1683 continued the present tax roll for other five years after July 1688:

Conjunct clerk elected.

31. The generall conventione, at the earnest desyre of Sir James Rocheid, present clerk to the royall borrowes, does elect and choyse Æneas

M'Leod, clerk of Edinburgh, to be conjunct general clerk to the royall borrowes with the said Sir James and that during the borrowes pleasure, allowing to him the equall half of all the dewes and casualties belonging to the said office. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1687.

32. Compeired Mr James Elphinstoun, agent for the royall borrowes, and dimitted his office as agent in the hands of the royall burrowes; and the convention considering the abilities and good qualifications of Mr John Buchan, advocat, and his fitnes to exerce that imployment, they have elected nominat and choysen and be thir presents elects nominats and choyses the said Mr John Buchan to be agent to the royall burrowes in the said Mr James Elphinstoun his stead, and allowes to him the fies, dewes, and casualties belonging to that office. John Buchan elected agent.

33. The convention appoynts the clerk to wryt such deliverances vpon the back of the petitions of Brichen and Bruntisland as is contained in the acts vpon the petitions given in be the burghs of Kirkcaldie and Montrose. Brichen, Bruntisland.

34. The convention remits to the consideration of nixt generall conventione what fynes shall be imposed vpon these burghs that are absent from this present convention. Fines absents.

35. Ratified and approved a disposition by the magistrates and council of Haddingtoun in favor of Alexander Maitland and his spouseof some lands lying in and holding feu of the burgh. The deed of ratification is engrossed in the record. Ratification, Haddingtoun.

36. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July next. Convention.

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1688.

Edinburgh, James Nicholson and James Cockburn; Perth, Sir Patrick Thriepland; Dundie, Major Generall Graham and John Graham, assessor; Aberdeen, David Ædie; Stirling, Hugh Kennedy; Linlithgow, James Urquhart; St Andrews, Sir William Sharp; Glasgow, Walter Gibson; Air, Sir William Wallace; Haddingtoun, Sir William Paterson; Kirkcaldie, James Lundie; Montross, Robert Rennald; Cowper, Lachlan Schaw; Dumfreis, John Maxwell; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, Michaell Seton; Innerkeithing, John Anderson; Kinghorn, John Skeen, younger of Hallyairds; Brichen, James Coway; Irving, Robert Wallace; Jedburgh, Mr William Symson; Kirkcudbright, William Broun; Wigtoun, William Moir; Pittinweem, James Cook; Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1688.

Dunfermling, Andrew Walker; Selkirk, John Riddell; Rhenfrew, Robert Hall; Dunbar, Sir Adam Blair; Lanerk, Robert Huntar; Aberbrothock, John Kyd; Peibles, John Govan; Carraill, William Craufurd; Tain, Charles Hay; Culross, James M'Kie; Bamff, William Fyff; Whythorn, Adam Keith; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rutherglen, Sir James Hamiltoun; Northberwick, Charles Maitland; Lauder, David Maitland; Sancquhar, Robert Carmichaell; Queensferrie, William Algeo; Stanraer, John Row. (Twenty-two burghs *blank*).

3 July 1688.

Preses.

1. Magnus Prince, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Committee.

2. Appointed a committee to "consider the commissions and report, and generallie to prepair all other affairs, bills, and others that shall happen to come under the cognizance of this convention."

Commissions.

3. Approved of report by the committee as to commissions.

Act in favores of Sir George M'Kenzie.

4. The convention considering the eminent and singular qualification of Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, his Majesties advocate, and how steidable and necessar a person he is to maintain the trew interest of the royall borrows and to advyse them in all affaires of law and other difficult caises, therfor they hereby reschind that act of borrowes discharging his owne and his servants pensions, dated the nynth day of July j^{m} vj^{c} and eighty fyve, and appoynts his and his servant pensions since syne to be payed by the agent as formerly, viz., the said lord advocats pension which is fyve hundred merks yearly and his servants pension which is sexty pounds Scots yearly; as alsoe in tyme coming during the pleasur of the convention.

Commission to Magnus Prince to goe to court.

5. The convention taking to ther serious consideration that it is ane necessar and indispensible dewty lying vpon the royall burrows at this tyme to expres the great joy and gladnes they haue for the unspeakable and ritch blissing of the birth of a young and hopfull Prince, does therefor unanimously resolve to send ane of ther number as commissioner to court to congratulat the same, and having certane knowledge of the loyalty and fitnes of Magnus Prince, lord provest of Edinburgh, ther preses, does heirby nominat and appoynt his lordship ther commissioner to the effect forsaid for presenting ther most humble and dewtifull addresses to the King and Queens Majestie, which wer publictly red and approven of by the haill convention and appoynted to be recorded in ther generall register, wherof the tenor followes: May it pleas your sacred Majestie. If the yearly dewty we pay your Majestie in a generall meitting of your royall

EDINBURGH 3 July 1688.

Commission to Magnus Prince to go to court.

burrows had not called us togither at this tyme yet we had (efter thanking of the Almighty God in our respective borrows for the birth of the young Prince) designed to have mett of purpose for acknowledging the great obligation we owe your Majesty in lenthning out even beyond your owne lyfe the happines and quyet which we justly expect during the Prince his lyfe, nor doe wee doubt bot that the enemies of our peace will vpon his birth find it necessary for them to lay asyd all hopes which they intertained of being able to trouble our tranquility, and that with him God will bestow vpon your Majesty that devot gratitud which may prevaill with his infinit goodnes to blis you with the inteir submission of your subjects, and your subjects with the happines of your long and vigorous lyfe. Great Sir, interest alse weell as dewty does ty your royall burrowes to a mor imediat dependance vpon that royall authority which gave them both ther being and priviledges, and experience hes now obleidged us to believe that you make our interest your owne, and therefor wee doe againe renew to your Majestie the sincere offer of our lyves and fortuns, being much inlyvened by the new hopes which spring freshly from this occasion, and to testifie our extraordinary joy vpon it wee have sent your Majesties provest of Edinburgh (the cheif of our representatives and one very much esteimed amongst us for his loyalty) to testifie beyond what a letter can doe that ther are non of your Majesties subjects mor joyfull vpon this occasion then, may it pleas your sacred Majestie, your Majesties most humble, most dewtifull, and most obedient loyall subjects and servants, the comissionars of the royall borrows of your Majesties ancient kingdome of Scotland. Signed in presence and by warrand of the generall convention of borrows by our preses and clerk, the particular subscriptions of the wholl commissioners being recorded in our registers.

Letter to the Queen's Majestie.

6. Followes the tenor of the other address :—

May it pleas your serene Majestie. The great veneration which we had for your Majesties person when we wer honoured with your presence in this kingdome did presage that we should one day owe you greater obligations then wer dew to a subject, and now wee find wee owe yow more then is dew to a Queen, for in giving us, under God, this young Prince, yow have given us with him a guard to our peace and a security to our propertie, and therfore, as ane humble acknowledgement of this great favour, wee have sent the provest of Edinburgh to kiss in our

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1688.

Letter to the Queen's Majestie.

name those princely hands from which our posterity are to expect that protection and bounty which may turn dewty unto gratitude, and to assure your Majestie that we shall teach our posteritie by our example to contribut as much as in us or them lyes to make his throne (when God brings him to it) as pleasant and easie as our lyves are to us under the glorious reigne of his royall parents. Our kyndness to his person and interest shall alwayes grow vp with him, and we should be sorie that our joy vpon this occasion wer not nixt to that of the Kings and yours or that your Majestie should think that any wold prove mor faithfull to yow and him then, may it please your serein Majestie, your Majesties most humble, most dewtifull, loyall and most obedient servants, the comissionars of the royall borrowes of the ancient kingdome of Scotland. Signed by warrand of the generall convention of burrowes by our preses and clerk, our subscriptions being recorded in our register.

Lord provost's expenses.

7. The convention considering that the lord provost of Edinburgh, ther commissionar to court, will be at considerable charges in his negotiation ther and expensses in his journey, as to which they give him full credit, being assured he will vse such frugality as is suitable to the nature of such ane undertaking, therfor the convention grants heirby warrand to ther agent to give honour and pay such bills as his lordship shall draw vpon him vpon the borrowes accompt, and allowes to the said agent annual rent for such soumes of money as he shall advance for the end forsaid.

Signature to town of Traquhen.

8. The lord provost of Edinburgh having made report to the convention that his lordship having gotten notice that ther wes ane signatur procured by Rodger Gordoun of Traquheu, appoynting the toun of Traquhen to be erected in a burgh of baronie and giving them all the priviledges in relation to trad that any royall burgh enjoys, and that he had caused stop the said signatur from being past the exchequer, and the agent hauing alsoe reported that the procurers of the gift wer content that these words of the gift anent the priviledge therin contained that is proper only to royall borrowes to injoy should be dilate, the convention does approve of the said lord provost and agents dilligence in that affair and heirby impouers the agent to raise a summonds of reduction of the haill gifts that are granted in favores of any burghes of regalities and barronies that containe the lyk priviledges.

Agents accompts.

9. Appointed a committee to audit the agent's accounts.

5 July 1688. EDINBURGH. 5 July 1688.

10. The convention vpon petition given in be Thomas Peacock and seuerall other of the old magistrats of the burgh of Kilrenny, holding furth ther wnability to pay the Kings cess and borrow missive dewes, and if they get not ane ease they will not be able to continow as a royall burgh, the convention out of great kyndnes and tendernes towards them, and being willing to cherish them as to ther continowance to be a royall burgh, does heirby undertake to pay the half of their bygane cess dew to the Kings Majestie since the year j^{m} vj^{c} and eighty or j^{m} vj^{c} eighty one, and to releive them of ther bygane borrow missive dewes, and ordaines the agent to lay on the same vpon the rest of the royall borrowes conforme to the taxt roll, provyding alwayes that the said Thomas Peocock obleidge him to pay the other half of the said burghs proportion of the Kings cess and ther proportion of the missive dewes in tyme coming, which he heirby obleidges him to doe. Act anent burgh of Kilrennie.

11. The convention ordained the agent to concur with and assist (1) the burgh of Aberdeen in discussing a suspension raised by a merchant and a resident in Aberdeen for a fine imposed on them for committing a riot; (2) such burgesses of royal burghs as are troubled by the Bishop of the Isles by exacting new customs for their fishing; (3) such freemen of royal burghs "as shall suspend M'Gregor whoe hes charged some of them for importing of wooll cards;" (4) such merchants as shall make application to be free of the imposition upon brandy; and (5) the burgh of Lanark in discussing two suspensions by "the paroch of Carstairs and Carlouck whoe have suspended the charges given to them for wnfree tradding." Agent, concurrence.

12. The convention haveing red a letter direct to them by the conservator wherein is narrated the care and charges he hes been at in the borrowes affaires this last year in the Low Cuntries and his offering to goe to Hamburgh to negotiat the borrowes affaires thair, the convention allowes to him two thousand merks, and heirby appoynts the agent to pay the same to him. Its alwayes heirby declared that if he repair not to Hamburgh to negotiat the borrowes affaires ther the agent is only to pay him one thousand merks. Conservator.

13. The convention having considered the petition given in be the burgh of Glasgow holding furth in what florishing condition they wer formerly in and now what condition they are reduced to by reason of the great addition of burden imposed wpon them within this few years, which Act anent Glasgow.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1688.

Act anent Glasgow.

maks ther burden to be ane thousand two hundred and fifty pound sterling yearly or therby, and that these severall years bygane ther trade has been sadly decaying and is now come to be very inconsiderable, which wes sufficiently known to the fermours of his Maiesties customes, and that the decay of ther fishing wes ane universall discouradgement to the inhabitants, and therefor craving the convention to appoynt three or four of ther number to repair to ther burgh and to take inquirie of ther conditione, the convention grants the desyre of the petition and appoynts the commissionars for Edinburgh, Air, Stirling, St. Andrews, Linlithgow, Haddingtoun, Rutherglen and Rhenfrew, or any four of them, to repair to the said burgh and take tryell of the premises and to report to the nixt generall convention.

Visitation of Air.

14. The burgh of Air having represented their bad condition, the convention appointed eight of their number to make inquiry and report.

Act in favors of Sir James Cuninghame.

15. The convention, in complyance with the gift and patent vnder the great seall granted be the Kings Majestie in favors of Sir James Cuninghame, knight and barronet, residing in Cadiz in Spain, constituting and appoynting him consul for the Scots nation in all the dominions of his most catholique Majestie in Ewrop, doe approve therof, and allowes to him ane peice of eight vpon each butt of Spanish wynes transported from thence to this kingdome and sicklyk proportionallie of other goods transported or exported to or from the saids dominions.

Kirkcaldie, Montrois.

16. Allowed to the burghs of Kirkcaldie and Montrois £25 sterling each to relieve their necessities.

Rutherglen.

17. The convention having taken to consideration the necessitous condition of Rutherglen appointed six of their number to visit the burgh and report.

Whythorn.

18. Allowed to the burgh of Whythorn £10 sterling for help towards the repairing of their harbour.

Inverness, Tain, Peibles.

19-21. The convention appointed certain of the commissioners to visit Inverness, Tain, and Peibles, and report on their condition.

22. Allowed to the burgh of Rhenfrew 500 merks Scots towards the rebuilding of their tolbooth.

Exemptions.

23. Exempted the burghs of Anstruther Eister and Kirkwall from sending commissioners to conventions, for three years.

Dunlop, Veatch, gratuities.

24. Continued gratuity to Alexander Dunlop, advocate, clerk to the burgh rolls, and Veatch of Daik, clerk to the signatures, for their good services.

6 July 1688. EDINBURGH. 6 July 1688.

25. The convention having considered the petition given in be William Anderson, son to William Anderson, late provost of Glasgow, bearing that in anno j^m^ vj^c^ and seventy-fyve ther being ane letter sent to the late Kings Majestie which gave offence at that tyme, the supplicants father amongst some others of the borrowes wes fyned in sex thousand merks and wes imprisoned till he payed the same, and the said act being ane publict deed of the convention, therfore craveand the convention to take the supplicants lose to consideration and appoynt some of ther number to consider the premisses and make report to the nixt generall convention, as the petition bears; which being considered be the convention they doe recomend to the comissioners for Edinburgh, Air, Stirling, Linlithgow, St. Andrews, Haddingtoun, Rutherglen, and Rhenfrew to consider the said petition and the ground whervpon the supplicants father wes fyned and report to the nixt generall convention. Act anent William Anderson in Glasgow.

26. On a representation by the burgh of Aberdeen "craving that the fyne imposed vpon the deceist Provost Petrie and the recomendation from the lordis of his Majesties privie councill to the borrowes thereanent may be considered by the convention," the convention appointed six of their number to consider the case and report. Act anent the deceist Provost Petrie.

27. On petition by the burgh of Irving "representing that that burgh is become mightily depauperat throw the absolute decay of trade these many years bygane, mostly occasioned throw the want of ane saif harbour which they wer not able to repair," the convention remitted to nine of the commissioners to make trial of the condition of the burgh and harbour and report. Irving.

28. On petition of the burgh of Sancquhar, "bearing that ther tolbuith, the cross and bridge is altogether rowinous," the convention remitted to three of the commissioners to visit the burgh and report. Sanquhar.

29. The convention having considered the report of the commissioners appoynted to visit the condition of the burgh of Dysert, and finding the same in a very impoverished condition, they being in considerable debt, and that they have noe comon good, ther harber being taken from them by the lord St. Clar, and ther croft lands possest be ther creditors which wes all the comon good they had, and that they have had noe magistrats these severall years bygane, the conventione doe therfore exeime the said burgh from payment of their bygane missive dewes extending to the soume of three hundred and thretein pounds 14s. 8d., and appoynts Act anent the burgh of Dysart.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1688.

the agent to proportion the same amongst the rest of the royall burrowes conforme to the tax roll.

Conservator, duties redeemed.

30. The convention taking to consideration the gift to the conservator of duties on Scots ships, goods, and passengers redeemable by the royal burghs for the yearly salary of £400 sterling, and also a letter from the conservator dated ¼ June last, where he declared his willingness to accept that salary, the convention bound themselves for payment thereof and directed John Buchan, their agent, to collect the dues.

Servants fees.

31. Allowed to Alexander Gay and other servants certain sums for services to the convention.

Fines, absence.

32. Fined certain burghs for absence from the convention.

7 July 1688.

Agents accompts approven.

33. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements extending to £5446, 13s. Scots and ordained the burghs to pay their shares.

Agent, £553, 7s.

34. Allowed the agent £553, 7s. for his pains in the burghs' affairs.

Mentaining prisoners.

35. The same day, it being represented by many of the commissioners of the royall burrowes that they are frequently troubled by the shirreffs of shyers and justices of peace who sends in prisoners to their respective tolbuiths vpon suspition of slaughter, thift, and other crymes without laying doun a way for mentaining the saids prisoners, whereby the burden of ther mentinance lyes heavie vpon the saids burghs, therfor the convention recomends to ther agent to represent their caice, by advyce of the commissionar for Haddingtoun, to the lords of his Majesties secreit councill that some effectuall course may be taken to prevent such complents in tyme coming.

Instructions for weel of burghs.

36. The convention appoynts the commissioners for Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Haddingtoun, Montross, Dumfreis, and Kirkcaldie to wait upon the provost of Edinburgh this night and to draw wp such privat instructions as is necessar to be moved at court for the weel of the burghs.

Anstruther Wester.

37. The convention, vpon petition given in be the burgh of Anstruther Wester, holding furth ther impoverished condition and unability to pay the Kings cess or borrow missive dues, the conventione declaires they will take thair caice to consideration against the nixt generall convention; as also declaires that ther is lying in our clerks hands ane renunciation and disposition of the comon good of the said burgh in favors of the royall burrowes which is yet wndetermined by the convention whither the borrrowes will accept therof or not.

38. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of July next. EDINBURGH. 6 July 1688.

39. Appointed a particular convention of twenty-five burghs to meet at Edinburgh "anent what emergent affaires shall fall out concerning the royall borrowes." General convention. Particular convention.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 6 November 1688.

Edinburgh, James Nicolson, dean of gild, and James Cockburn; Dundie, John Grahame; Aberdeen, David Ædie; Stirling, Hugh Kennedy; Linlithgow, Alexander Smith; St Andrews, Sir William Sharp; Glasgow, Walter Gibsone; Air, Adam Osburn; Haddingtoun, Sir William Paterson; Kirkcaldie, James Lundie; Montros, Robert Rennald; Dumfreis, John Maxwell or John Irving; Peibles, John Govan; Rutherglen, Andrew Harvie; Perth, Cowper, Bruntisland, Dunbar, Selkirk, Northberwick, Quensferrie, Kinghorn, Dumfermling, Carraill, and Rhenfrew (*blank*). Sederunt.

6 November 1688.

1. Sir Magnus Prince, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions and letters of excuse, and to prepare what is necessary for the consideration of the convention. Committee, commissions, etc.

3. After hearing the report of the committee, the convention approved of the commissions and refused to admit the excuses sent from Perth and Dunbar. Commissions, excuses.

4. The lord provost of Edinburgh, preses of the convention, and commissioner appoynted to present the congratulatory letters sent with him to the King and Queens Majesty, and to negotiat the royall borrowes affaires at court, conforme to his commission given to him by the last generall convention and the instructions relative therto, maide report of his negotiation and of the great cair and conduct he hes taken in manadgeing the royall borrows affaires intrusted to him and did produce in presence of the convention ane letter from his Majestie direct to the royall borrowes, which being publictly red the same wes appoynted to be recorded in the register of the royall borrowes, wherof the tenor followes: To our right trustie and welbeloved, the commissioners of our royall borroughs of our ancient kingdome of Scotland. *Sic superscribitur:* JAMES, R. Right trusty and welbeloved, wee greet yow weell. Wee haue receiued by the provost of Edinburgh, your preses, your congratulatory addresses Report anent the borrows affaires at court.

EDINBURGH. 6 November 1688.

Report anent the borrows affaires at court.

to us and the Queen, our royall consort, upon the birth of the Prince, which being wholly consonant to that firme and faithfull duty and sincere and zealous affection which wee have alwayes observed to be very eminent in you towards us, our crown and government, and with all being presented to us by a person of whose worth, fidelity, and loyalty wee are intirely assured . . . .* and are to us most acceptable, wishing not mor for our selves than for yow and all our other good subjects that these blessings which yow doe soe earnestly pray for and soe affectionatly augurate upon this happy occasion (and which wee trust God Almighty shall ratify) may be still perpetually encreased to the mutuall satisfaction and joy of us and our people, Wee haue farther instructed the provost, your commissioner, to show you how ready wee are and will be alwayes to promote the interest of trade and to procure the wealth and welfare of all our royall borroughs, desyring you heirby to give him full credit as to a person whom wee haue not only thought fit to honour with particular marks of our royall favour, but alsoe to recommend to you more especially for his singular study and care he hath witnessed in all your concerns, and how that on his intercession wee haue discharged you and your shipps of the impositions of the admirality as to passes and safe conducts will appear by our letter directed to our privie councill for that effect. And he having further represented to us your great interest in the nomination of a new conservator of your priviledges in the united provinces in place of Sir James Kennedy, laitly deceased, as alsoe that some of our royall borroughs are put to expences and trouble by being charged with the custody of prisoners that have not wherwith to mentaine themselves in ther respective tolboothes and prison houses, wee have thought fit on both to give you those further testimonies of our royall favour ; and, first, that wee have thought good to forbear to name and appoynt any new conservator in place of the said Sir James Kennedy, lately deceased, untill that wee have your opinion both as to the expediency of supplying this vaccancy and the continuing of this office, and alsoe vpon the conditions and rules wherby it may be best regulated for the better advancement of trade, and vpon the rate and manner of the allowance fit to be given to the person that shall be named to it, declaring in the meantyme that wee [do not*] purpose to renew that

* In the original record a space on which two or three words might be written is destroyed.

extraordinary imposition upon goods and passengers granted by us in favour of the said Sir James during his lyftyme (and which expyred with him) judging it ane unnecessary and too heavy a burthen upon your trade and commerce; and, next, for preventing the aforesaid other troubles complained of in tyme coming, it is our further will and pleasure that non of our magistrats of our borroughs royall shall heirefter be obliged to receive and keep prisoners presented by privat persons in their tolboothes and prison houses unles that the party whoe brings and presents the prisoner doe give (if required) satisfying assurance to the said magistrat for the maintinance of the said prisoners during ther commitment, and that they shall not be in charge to the said magistrates and ther incorporation, for which ther refusall in the case forsaid these presents shall be ther warrant. And this our royall good will and pleasur towards you wee will and require you to caus to be registered in the books of convention, as alsoe wee ordaine the same to be registered in the books of our councill that non pretend ignorance, and soe wee bid you farewell. Given at our court at Whythall the 25th day of September 1688, and of our reigne the 4th year. By his Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* MELFORT.

EDINBURGH. 6 November 1688.

Report anent the borrows affaires at court.

5. The lord provost reported that he fully treated with the Earle of Melfort, secretary of state, anent the great decay of tred and the unsuportable burdens which the royall borrowes at present lye under, especially the unsuferable prejudices of the burghs of regalities and barronies, and the great charges of the 50 solze per tun which all the ships of this kingdome goeing to France does pay; as alsoe, a designed imposition by the burgh of Newcastle vpon the Scots coall which wold altogither hinder the import to the kingdome of Ingland which by his care and dilligence wes hindered; as alsoe, reported that he had procured ane letter from his sacred Majestie to the lords of his Majesties most honorable privie councill anent the passes and saif conducts of the admirality and the imprisoning of privat persons within any of the royall borrowes, tolboothes, or prison houses, and which letter wes ordained to be recorded in the books of admirality, as the said letter and act of his Majesties privie councill relative thereto in it self mor fullie proports; which report being considered be the present convention they doe unanimously approve therof and of the great care and dilligence ther said

Report anent the borrows affaires at court.

EDINBURGH. 6 November 1688.

commissioner had taken at court in prosecuting the instructiones given to his lordship by the last generall conventione, and returned his lordship ther hearty thanks for soe good, great, and profitable services done be him to the royall borrowes.

8 November 1688.

Passes and imprisonment of persons for debts.

6. Sir William Patersone, clerk to his Majesties privie councill, produced the letter direct to his Majesties privie councill relative to his Majesties letter direct to the royall borrowes as to imprisonment of any persons within any of the royall borrowes, tolboothes, or prison houses, and in relation to passes for ships, whervpon the saids lords of his Majesties privie councill had made ane act appoynting the said letter to be intimat to the judge and officers of the admirality and recorded in ther book ; which letter being publictly red the conventione appoynts the same should be recorded in the register of the royall borrowes, wherof the tenor followes. *Sic superscribitur:* JAMES, R. Right trusty and right welbeloved cousin and councellor, right trusty and right welbeloved councellours, right trusty and intirely beloved cousins and councellours, right trusty and right welbeloved cousins and councellours, right trusty and welbeloved cousins and councellours, right trusty and welbeloved councellours, and trusty and welbeloved councellors, wee greet yow well. Forasmuch as wee are informed that the judges, clerks, and other officers of our admirality courts, doe under pretence of the late act of parliament ordaining that our admirall and his deputs have the sole right of granting passes and safe conducts to all ships, boats, or other seafaring vessells quhatsoeuer, are in use to impose upon masters, skippers, and others concerned in the said ships, boats and seafaring vessels, the necessity in all caices of taking the said passes and safe conducts which ought to be left free to ther own choise, and doeth otherwise prove to them ane unnecessary charge and great incumbrance ; and wee being resolved as well to provide for the just ease and liberty of all our subjects (especially those of our royall borrowes) as to maintaine the due rights and priviledges of our admirality, therfor it is our will and pleasur that yow signifie to the said judges, clerks, and other officers of the said courts of admirality, that wee have discharged, lykeas we heirby

discharge them or any of them in any sort to require or impose vpon any of the aforsaids persons concerned in the said ships, boats, and other seafaring vessells, the taking out of the said passes and safe conducts, or to make them any demand, trouble, or molestation whatsoever for ther not taking out therof, but that they leave the taking or not taking of the said passes to ther owne free choise; provyding nevertheless that in all cases wher passes are neidfull or shall be desired the admirall and his deputs doe still have the sole right of granting of the said passes and safe conducts, heirby unprejudged, conforme to the said act of parliament; and also providing that in all cases wherin, by the law, passes and safe conducts are needfull, these presents shall be noe excuse to the forsaid persons concerned for ther wanting therof; which our will and pleasure wee require yow to caus to be intimated to and registered in the books of our said courts of admirality, and that all the said judges, clerks, and other officers therof doe conform themselves therto under the pain of such punishments as yow shall think fit to inflict vpon the contraveeners. And yow are lykwise further to take notice how that being informed that our royall borrowes are often charged to receive and keep into ther tolboothes and prison houses prisoners who have not wherwith to maintain themselves but to become a charge vpon the said borrows, wee haue thought fitt by our letter directed to them of the dait of these presents to allow them to refuise any such prisoner presented by privat persons except the pairty whoe presents him give (if required) satisfieing assurance for his maintinance, which wee require you will alsoe take care to see observed; and soe wee bid yow heartily farewell. Given at our court at Whythall the 25th day of September 1688, and of our reigne the 4th year. By his Majesties comand. *Sic subscribitur*: MELFORT.

EDINBURGH. 8 November 1688.

Passes and imprisonment of persons for debts.

7. The draught of the letter of thanks to his Majestie by the present conventione as a return to his Majesties royall letter directed to the royall borrowes being red, the same wes wnanimously approven by the convention and appoynted to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes:— May it pleas your sacred Majesty. The new proofs wee have had of your Majesties royall favour to us in your last letter relaiting to the conservator, the passes of the admirality, and the entertainment of prisoners, but especiallie the great care your Majesty expressed for repairing and augmenting and for the kyndnes your Majestie wes graciously pleased to

Letter of thanks to his Majestie.

EDINBURGH. 8 November 1688.

Letter of thanks to his Majestie.

show to the provost of your good toune of Edinburgh, our preses, whoe represented us, and all your other princely favours heap'd on us since God wes pleased to bring your Majestie to the throne of your royall ancestors, and for which wee hop our successores whoe are to find the advantadges therof, as well as ourselves, shall ever think it ther true interest to depend imediatly upon the monarchie from which only they can find a true and solid support. Having at this our meeting been informed of a most unjust and unnaturall invasion designed against your Majestie and your kingdomes wee doe find our selves concerned by our allegiance and gratitud to assure your Majestie, and let all your other subjects see, that the former professions wee have made of adhering to your royall interest upon all occasions wer not meer and emptie complements but that the same sincerity from which they proceided then shall still animat us to hazard all for your Majestie, his royall highnes the Prince of Scotland, and the royall lyne, being fully convinced that whatever tends to shak the thron must necessarly overturn the liberty and property of all your subjects notwithstanding of all the masks and pretensions that may be made use of by any undertakers whatsoever. May it pleas your sacred Majesty, your Majesties most obedient, most humble, most deutiefull, and most loyall subjects and servants. Signed in presence and by warrand of the particular convention of borrowes by our preses.

9 November 1688.

Letter to the secretary of state.

8. The convention appoynts ane letter to be sent to the Earle of Melfort, in which the royall borrowes letter direct to his Majesty is to be inclosed, which being publictly red the same wes ordained to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes :—May it pleas your lordship. The state of borrowes have alwayes had experience of your lordships kyndnes and favours, and haveing in ther particular convention mett at this tyme to return ane answer to his Majesties gracious letter, wee have sent the inclosed to your lordship to be presented by yow to his sacred Majestie with a tender of our lyves and fortuns and that wee shall never be ungreatfull for such good and great services as have been done by your lordship to the royall borrowes and for the kyndnes your lordship wes pleased to show to the provost of Edinburgh, our preses, during his aboad

at court, which is and alwayes shall be ane obligation vpon us to serve your lordship to the outmost of our power. May it pleas your lordship, your lordshipps most humble, most obedient, and most obleidged servants. Signed in name and at the desyre of the royall borrowes. *Sic subscribitur;* MAGNUS PRINCE, preses. EDINBURGH. 9 November 1688. Letter to the secretary of state.

9. The convention having considered the representation made to them be Adame Osburn, commissioner for the burgh of Air, holding furth to the convention that two ships fraughted from Air to Nantiz in France with wooll and sheep skins and wooll on them belonging to the said burgh being put in to Dublin by contrary winds they wer both seazed on ther vpon pretext that the wooll wes Irish wooll and that noe such comodities wer exported from Scotland (albeit it hes been the constant trade from the west these many years bygane) and that the merchants and masters of the ships wer willing to depon vpon the verity of the cocquets that all wes truely loaded at Air, whervpon they made application to his Majesties most honorable privie councill and procured ane letter at ther desyre from the lord high chancellor of Scotland recomending them to the lord deputty and councill of Ireland for restoring the masters and owners to ther ships and goods, and yet they are not restored, and therfor craving the convention wold appoynt ane letter of recomendation to be sent to the lord secretary of state, the Earl of Melfort, to procure ane recomendation from his Majestie in favores of the said burgh to the said lord deputy and councill of Ireland that the masters and owners of the saids two ships may be restored to ther ships and goods; which representation and desyre thereof being considered be the convention they recomend to the lord provost of Edinburgh, preses of this convention, to wryt at his lordships conveniencie ane letter to the said lord secretar of state in behalf of the masters and owners of the saids two ships and goods, that they may be free of the beall or any impositions imposed by the lord deputy and councill of Ireland, that ther ships and goods may be restored. Air, ships seised.

10. Fined the burghs absent and not excused in £100 Scots each. Absent burghs.

11. Excused the commissioner of Northberwick for not attending "in respect he is comanded by authority to attend the Island of the Bass, he being deputy-governor therof." Northberwick excused.

EDINBURGH. 9 November 1688.

King's letter as to passes and prisoners.

12. There was produced an act of the privy council ordaining extracts of the letter from the King (contained in act 6th of this convention) to "be given to all persons concerned that they may give punctuall obedience therto every maner of way."

10 November 1688.

Lord provost's charges.

13. The convention allowed to Sir Magnus Prince, who was appointed by the burghs to negotiate their affairs at court, £800 sterling "in consideration of soe good, profitable, and acceptable services which by his good conduct and care to the benefit and advantage of the royall burrowes hes been performed."

Payments.

14. Allowed to Alexander Gay and Henry Kinloch £5 sterling, for their pains at this convention; and "allowes to the woman that sweeps the house a dollar."

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1689.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Thomas Crawfurd, dean of gild, and George Stirling, Chirurgion; Perth, Robert Smith; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Alexander Gordoun; Stirling, Hugh Kennedy; Linlithgow, William Higgins; St. Andrews, James Smith; Air, John Moor; Haddingtoun, William M'Call; Dysart, David Chrysty; Kirkcaldie, John Boswell; Montross, Mr Robert Taylyeor; Couper, Robert Melvill; Anstruther Eister, David Spence; Dumfreis, James Kennan; Inverness, John Cuthbert; Bruntisland, Alexander Ged; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spitell of Lewquhat; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Brichen, James Coway; Irving, Mr Alexander Cuningham; Jedburgh, Adam Ainslie; Kirkcudbright, John Ewart; Wigtoun, William Coltran; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, Sir Charles Haskit; Anstruther Wester, Mr Robert Cleeland; Selkirk, William Mitchelhill; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet, Rhenfrew, Mr William Cochran of Kilmaronoch; Dunbar, William Kirkwood; Lanerk, Thomas Hamilton; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stiven; Elgin, James Stewart; Peibles, John Muir; Carraill, George Moncreif; Culross, Mr William Areskin; Bamff, Walter Stewart; Forfar, John Carnegie; Nairn, John Ross; Rutherglen, John Scott; North Berwick, Thomas Stewart of Coltnes; Cullen, Mr James Ogilvie; Kilrennie, Thomas Peacock; Annan, Bryce Blair; Sancquhar, Robert Carmichaell; Dornoch, George Gordoun; Quensferrie, Sir William Hamilton; Inverarie, Hugh Broun; Innerurie, John Anderson. Glasgow, Tayn, Whythorn, Rothesay, Forres, Lawder, Locmaben, Galloway, Dingwall, Forteross, Kintore, Week, Kirkwall, Innerbervie, and Stanraer (*blank*).

2 July 1689.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1689.

1. Sir John Hall of Dunglas, lord provost of Edinburgh, and in his absence, Thomas Crawfurd, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. A committee appointed to revise the commissions and consider the petitions and other matters offered to the consideration of the convention. Committee, commissions, etc.

3 July 1689.

3. The committee reported that they found the commissions sufficient. Report, commissions.

4. The convention taking to ther consideration that ther are severall comissionars for the parliament that have not speciall commissions for this generall convention and yet ther is noe others that hes commissions to the same, therfor the convention to the effect that the haill representatives to the royall borrowes both in parliament and in this generall convention may be the mor wnanimous in carieing on the concerns of the royall borrows in parliament, this generall convention doe allow these commissioners to sit and vote as members, declaring heirby that this allouance and temporarie dispensation shall not be a preparative and leading caice in tyme coming for any to pretend that they can sit as members of general conventions without a speciall commission conforme to the established generall platforme theranent. Commissioners to parliament and conventions.

5. The convention appoynts the generall comitty to take to ther consideration in the first place the publict and comon concerns of the estate of borrowes and what is to be prepared and presented to the parliament theranent, and that befor they take to thair consideratioun the particular concerns of any privat burgh. Publict concerns of borrows.

4 July 1689.

6. The convention appointed "the impoverished condition of the burgh of Dysart" to be a head of next missive; and "recomendis to the agent to assist that burgh as to the decyding the difference betuixt the Lord Sinclar and them which is under agreement." Dysart.

7. The convention taking to ther consideration the petition presented to them be the burgh of Anstruther Wester, representing that they had formerly resigned ther priviledges and the lords of thesaurie had granted exemption to them frae payment of all publict burdens since the year j^{m} Anstruther Wester.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1689.

Anstruther Wester.

vj^{c} and sevinty two, in regaird all the comon good they had wes eleven bolls of bear and twenty four pounds Scots of money, which wes allocat for payment of ther ministers, and that they had noe customes or casualties; and yet nevertheles of ther distressed condition, and that they are past all hopes of having trade in tyme coming, the royall borrowes wer not desyrous they should be expunged out of the taxt roll, bot that the said burgh might continow as a member for the futur, and to evidence ther willingnes to complye with the forsaid desyre they wer content, vpon clearing them of all byganes and bringing them to twelve pennies in the taxt roll, and they getting vp ther disposition to ther comon good, and the borrowes procuring to them a chartor of royalty, to continow as a member of the borrowes for the futur; which petition and desyre therof being considered by the convention, the convention thought fit to restrict ther pairt of the taxt roll, which wes formerly fyve shilling, to twelve pennies, and that till the alteration of the taxt roll, and ordanes the agent to pay the other four pairts of the said fyve shillings yearly till they be brought to the said twelve pennies, and alsoe ordaines him to pay four pairts of the haill byganes and that the said burgh pay a fyfth pairt of the haill byganes, and ordanes ther disposition of ther comon good lying in the clerks hands to be delyvered back to ther comissioners, and appoynts the said burgh to obtane a new chartor of erection vpon ther owne charges.

Inverary.

8. The convention appoynts the agent to exact from the burgh of Inverary the four shillings which is ther proportion they are to pay by the taxt roll, and that for all byganes since the year j^{m} vj^{c} and forty nyn, and alse in tyme coming, delaying alwayes the exaction of the sam till the nixt generall convention.

Sir George Mackenzie's and his servants pensions.

9. The convention rescinded the fourth act of the general convention in July 1688 appointing the agent to pay Sir George M'Kenzie of Rosehaugh and his servant their pensions from July 1685 to July 1688, and instructed the agent not to make payment of any part of their pensions.

Secretaries of state, ther pensions.

10. The convention discharged the agent to make payment to the late secretaries of state of their pension of 2000 merks since July 1688.

Pensions rescinded.

11. The convention revived the twelfth act of the general convention of 1685 rescinding all former acts establishing pensions upon certain persons who do service to the royal burghs, and declared all acts in prejudice thereof to be null and void.

Renfrew.

12. The agent having been appointed to pay to the burgh of Renfrew 1000 merks for repairing of their tolbooth, the convention instructed him to retain one

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1689.

half of the sum till the commissioners of Glasgow and Dumbarton ascertain that the first 500 merks "wes reallie applyed toward the repairing of the said toll-buith and that the work is advanced."

Moncur, officer.

13. The convention discharged George Moncur, their officer, to crave money from any burgh when he delivers the missives.

Lanark.

14. Appointed the agent to assist the burgh of Lanark in applying to parliament, or any other judicatory, for reparation of the many and great losses they have sustained.

Dues under Sir James Kennedy's gift.

15. The convention, considering that the collectors of the several sea ports had collected money "vpon the accompt of the deceist Sir James Kennedy, conservator, his gift, to which the borrows hes right," appointed the agent to obtain the money and to pursue those liable for the dues which the collector had not uplifted.

Exemption, Sanquhar.

16. Exempted the burgh of Sanquhar from sending a commissioner to conventions for three years, "in respect of the poverty of that burgh and that they live at a great distance."

Sir James Kennedy.

17. Instructed the agent not to pay any part of the sum of 2000 merks appointed by the 12th act of last general convention to be paid to Sir James Kennedy for his services, "pairt wherof he did never performe and for the other pairt he wes mor than sufficientlie rewairded by former conventions, he having receaved considerable soumes of money for litle or noe services and wes many wayes burdensome to the borrowes."

15 July 1689.

Platforme of Commissions.

18. Rescinded the 24th act of the general convention of 1687 altering the platform of commissions, and revived the former old platform "wherby the saids comissions are to bear that ther commissionars are men fearing God, of the trew protestant religion publictly professed and authorized by the lawes of this kingdome, without suspicion in the contrair, expert in the comon affaires of borroues, merchands, traffequers, and inhabitants within the burgh, bearing all portable charges with ther nighboures, and such as may tyn or win in all ther affaires."

Act allowing Sir Magnus Princes £800 declared null.

19. Referring to the 13th act of the particular convention in November last allowing £800 sterling to Sir Magnus Prince for his services at court, the convention "seing noe particular convention can lay on any burden or soumes of money vpon the royall borrowes without speciall warrand from a general convention," and the matter not being mentioned in the missive calling the particular convention, "wherby the commissionars of the burghs whoe then mett wer not specially instructed by ther respective burghs," the convention unanimously declared the said act to be null and void.

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1689.

Allowance to Sir Magnus Prince.

20. The convention "efter some debate vpon the matter of Sir Magnus Prince his allowance for his expenss and gratification in prosecution of his commission given by the general convention to him in July 1688 and his wholl negotiation at court," allowed him £300 sterling in satisfaction of his claims.

Act appointing 25 to be a quorum.

21. The convention considering that the wholl number of the commissionars doe not keep the meettings at the generall conventions, wherby the matters in debait befor the conventions are retarded and the concerns of the borrowes therby prejudged, doe therfor statut and ordaine that in all tyme coming twenty fyve comissioners of these burghs that sends ther commissioners to the generall conventions shall be a quorum.

Visitation of certain burghs.

22. Directions given as to the numbers and quorum of commissioners appointed by certain acts of last general convention to visit and report on the burghs of Glasgow, Air, Rutherglen, Inverness, Peibles, and Irving.

Coach hyr and drink money.

23. The convention considering that ther is ane burden vpon the borrowes by the agents debursing for coach hyres and drink money when any comitty of the borrowes goes to the Abbay or to visit any great person, they doe therfor discharge the agent to pay any coach hyres in tyme coming or give drink money without ane ordor from the conventione.

Culross.

24. After considering the petition of the burgh of Culros "bearing ther distressed condition throw want of the trade in coall and salt they formerly had, and ther decay of trade in making of girdells," the convention appointed a committee to visit the burgh and report to the next general convention, "and that the agent concur with the said burgh in getting againe the gift of the coquets."

Forfar, intromission of provost with comon good.

25. The convention taking to ther consideration the petition of John Carnegie, provost of Forfar, craving that for vindicating his integrity in the administration of the affaires of that burgh and of his intromission with the comon good therof, he wes most willing that the samen should be exposed to publict view and considered by indifferent and impartiall persons such as the convention should appoynt, and that ane accompt of ther dilligence should be reported to the nixt generall meeting, the convention considering that a proces of compt and reckoning befor the supream judicatories is both tedious and expensive, and being prosecut by humor and heat as is usuall in such caices the same may tend to the ruin of the said burgh, which the convention conceaves they are in dewty obleidged to prevent and obviat, especially when application is made to them as in this caice of all pairties concerned, both the magistrats and

inhabitants, and to the effect that ther may be ane impartiall scrutinie made of the petitioners intromission of the comon good of the said burgh therfor the convention appoynts [a committee to audit the accounts of the petitioner's intromission with the common good, and hear the objections of all concerned, and to see all matters "don and acted fairly and orderly, without animositie or humor," and to report to next general convention.] EDINBURGH. 15 July 1689. Forfar, intromission of provost with comon good.

26. Approved of the accounts of John Buchan, agent, from July 1688 to July 1689, extending to £7693, 17s. 4d. Scots, and ordained the burgh to pay their proportions. The following items are contained in the accounts :— Agents accompts.

Item, conform to the 11 act of the said generall convention, for suspending and agreeing with the maisters of the card manufactorie,	£ 34	10	0
Item, conform to the said act, anent the double impost upon brandy, spent against the taxmen and at the agreement with them be the advyce of the merchants of Edinburgh, .	341	17	8
Item, to Charles Chamers and Gilbert Kirktoun for wrytting som letters to court and to the clerks of councill and ther servands, and to Sir George M'Kenzie and his servand for penning of the saids letters, ...	127	0	0

27. The convention recomends to such of ther commissioners as are members of parliament to consider what person is most fit and qualified to supplie the office of conservator, which is presently vaccant, till the sitting of the nixt generall convention, and to mak application to the Kings Majestie or to the parliament or secret councill theranent as they shall think fitt. Office of conservator.

28. The convention taking to ther consideration that ther meeting at this present convention hes bein longer then vsuall, which wes occasioned by their vehement and zealous desyre to doe ther outmost and best service for the good of the borrowes at this tyme when the parliament is sitting, and to have every thing that is burdensome to the trad and interest of the royall borrowes removed and ther grevances redressed by this parliament, and that in purseuance therof they have taken paines to reduce the samyn to the particular poynts efter following, recomending the furder prosecution of them to the commissioners whoe are members of parliament efter this convention is disolved, and which they thought fitt to have insert in the borrow books to shew ther care they had of the concerns of the borrowes to succeiding conventions, wherof the cheaf and capital grivance is that of the invasion made vpon ther priviledges by Greivances of the burghs.

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1689.

Greivances of the burghs.

the burghs of regality and barronie, for remedie of which they have offered to the consideration of the parliament ane act, quherof the tenor followes:—Our Soveraigne Lord and Lady, the King and Queens Majesties, and estaits of parliament, considering that the trade allowed to burghs of barronies and regalities hath not yet been swa cleared but that many contraversies doeth daylie aryse thervpon, to the great prejudice of the trade of this kingdome, and ther Majesties considering that the royall borrowes being one of the estaits of this kingdome bearing a sixth pairt of all publict impositions, being obleidged to watch, waird, build and mentain prison houses, with several other obligations for support of his Majesties government, in consideration wherof ther Majesties royall predicessors hes by many repeated lawes granted to them the sole and only power of trade within and without this kingdome, and it being most fitt that now efter full tryall of all former expedients all contraversies about trade should be clearly determined, therfor ther Majesties and estaits of parliament statuts and ordaines that the importing of all forraign goods and merchandize, and the exporting of all the native comodities of this kingdom, except cornes, catle, coall, salt, lyme and ston, doeth and shall belong to the friemen inhabitants of ther Majesties royall borrowes allennerly, but prejudice to noblemen and barrons to import as formerly what they consume within ther owne houses, and wherof noe pairt is sold againe, and whoe does in the contrair shall be punished according to the tenor of the acts of parliament made against wnfrie tradders in all poynts, declaring heirby that burghs of regalities and barronies shall and may trade be retaile in selling all forraigne and native comodities, provyding alwayes they buy the forraigne comodities from some of the friemen residenters in royall borrowes and no vtherwayes, and that notwithstanding of the fyfth act of the thrid session, second parliament, Charles the Second, which is heirby restricted expresly and abrogated in soe far allennerly as it is inconsistent with this present act, and ordanes letters of horning to be directed by the lords of councill and session at the instance of all royall borrowes vpon this present act in all tyme coming for putting the samen to dew execution with all rigor against them that come in the contrair therof without calling any pairty.

(1.) Item, that some effectuall course be taken for calling magistrats of burghs to ane accompt for ther intromission with the revenew of ther

respective burghs, and to consider if it be fitt that the power of calling them to ane accompt may be granted to the convention of borrowes. EDINBURGH. 15 July 1689.

Greivances of the burghs.

(2.) Item, that the pryces of wynes, meat and drink, in taverns, should be determined by the magistrats and councill of the royall borrowes, and of craftsmens work, and by noe others.

(3.) Item, that heritors of ground wher the royall burrowes fishes should not exact arbitrary dewes bot at the most twelve shilling vpon the last.

(4.) Item, that merchants within royall borrowes should be obleidged to bring home armes for the vse of the burgh.

(5.) Item, that it should be considered whither the office of ane conservator be necessar or not, and if it be found necessar that noe conservator be made without the borrowes consent, and that the determination of what dewes he is to have to be absolutly in the power of the burrowes.

(6.) Item, to consider if the borrowes be concerned in the mater of the breadth and bleitching of lining cloath.

(7.) Item, what furder incouradgement is to be sought for building of ships, etc.

(8.) Item, to consider how far its fit to apply to authority anent the council of trade and the sumptuarie lawes which hes bein very prejudiciall to the borrowes.

(9.) Item, to consider how far the excyse is exacted beyond the quota of eight thousand pound sterling imposed be act of parliament, and how it may be redressed, seing double is exacted.

(10.) Item, how far the borrowes are concerned in the exportation of yearn and wooll.

(11.) Item, that the act of parliament dischargeing tradesmen to import made work to be considered and how far it may be inlarged.

(12.) Item, to consider how far the borrowes may be concerned for incouradgement of the sugarie and sopperie works.

(13.) Item, to consider how far the borrowes are greved in the matter of bullion and by the book of raits wherby bullion is layed vpon the import and not on the export contrair to the custome of all forraigne nations.

(14.) Item, to consider if it be not fit that for incouradgement of erecting manufactories that nyntein years may be granted be act of parliament to begin frae the setting vp of the saids manufactories.

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1689.

Greivances of the burghs.

(15.) Item, that the power of granting licence to export what native comodities may concern manufactories ought to be ludged in the convention of burrowes and in those deligat by them.

(16.) Item, that the act of parliament anent arreistments within burgh be either rectified or repealled.

(17.) Item, that all penall statuts inferring pecuniary mulcts be discharged preceeding this tyme.

(18.) Item, that it should not be in the power of any judicatory to erect any incorporationes within burgh prejudiciall to the ancient incorporations already established or to disolve or divyd the said ancient incorporations.

(19.) Item, that the old impost of 4 li. vpon the tune within royall borrowes payable to the exchequer, as lykwayes the sexpence vpon the pynt of brandie, be considered and how far its fitt to move in them and to have them taken away.

(20.) Item, the gift in favores of Peter Braus anent vending and selling of playing cards, and all that hes followed vpon it, to be declared null.

(21.) Item, to crave redress of the mentenance of prisoners put in for civill and criminall causes into the tolbuiths of the royall borrowes by the shirreffs, justices, etc., which is very heavie and chargeable to the royall borrowes.

(22.) Item, that some redres be sought of the lait fynes imposed vpon Provost Petrie of Aberdeen, Provost Anderson of Glasgow and Provost Ainsly of Jedburgh, who suffered fyning and imprisonment as acting dewtifullie as members of the convention of borrowes in 1675.

(23.) Item, that redres be craved of the great grivance of the inequality of measurs that are within royall burghs and burghs of barronie and regalitie, such as Dalkeith and vthers, and that the act of parliament 1587 anent mets and measures be revived.

(24.) Item, to crave redress of the yearly burden and charges the borrowes are at in making their equie in exchequer wherby they are put to exhorbitant expenss to the servants of exchequer besyd the paying of the borrow males.

(25.) Item, that the petition given in be the merchants of Edinburgh anent a free trade be seconded by all the assistance the royall borrows can affoord in petitioning the parliament for that effect.

29. The convention taking to ther consideration the representation made to them by the burgh of Queensferrie holding furth the great lose the said toune hes sustained since the year j^m^ vj^c^ and sevinty eight, quherin the inhabitants had interest, extending to twenty seven thousand pounds Scots money, in maner particularly insert in ther representation, and that by and attour the lose of men and boyes which wer lost when ther ships wer cast away at sea, besyds ther burden of the mentinance of sevinty orphants and eightein widowes which are mentained vpon the said burghs expenssis, and alsoe that the heritors in regaird of the poverty of the said burgh doe contribut the third pairt of ther rents for paying the Kings cess and vther publict burdens, which burden and lose altogither hes rendered them to that condition that they cannot any longer subsist wnles ther condition be taken to the generall conventions consideration and some effectuall way may be condescended vpon to ease them of the havie and insuportable burden they lye vnder, the convention appoynts the burghs of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Stirling, Innerkeithing and Culross, or any three of them, to visit the said burgh of Queensferrie, take tryall of ther lose and burden forsaid and the trew condition of the said burgh and report to the nixt generall convention. EDINBURGH. 15 July 1689. Queensferrie.

30. Continued till next general convention consideration of report by the commissioners appointed to visit the burgh of Elgin. Elgin.

31. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Pittenweem "anent the great damnage sustained by them by lose of men and ships belonging to that burgh, the ruinous condition of ther peir and vther losses in maner held furth in ther petition, and to report to the nixt generall convention." Pittenweem.

32. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Bamff "take tryall of her condition becaus of the decay of ther trade and to visit the condition of ther harbour and report to the nixt generall convention." Bamff.

33. Discharged the agent to exact the fines imposed on certain burghs for absence from last particular convention. Dichairging fines.

18 July 1689.

34. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Bruntisland "try the condition therof" and report to next general convention. Bruntisland.

35. Continued till next general convention consideration of reports by commissioners appointed to visit Kirkcaldie and Montrose. Kirkcaldie, Montrose.

36. Discharged the agent to exact any fines imposed for absence from the general convention of 1688. Discharging fines.

EDINBURGH. 18 July 1689.

St Andrews.

37. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of St Andrews "and to tak tryall of the condition of ther harbor and of the generall decay of the trad of the said burgh and of the ruinous condition of the duelling houses within the same, and to report to the generall convention in July next, 1690, to the effect that the said burgh, being the seat of ane ancient and famous university, soe much to the honor of the nation, may be preserved from ruine."

Kirkcudbright.

38. The convention taking to their consideration the representation mad to them be the burgh of Kirkcudbright, bearing that they are not able to pay the great burden imposed vpon them, which is sextein shilling Scots be the taxt roll, and ther great decay of trade, they having noe adventur at sea since the year j^{m} vj^{c} and sevinty, and that ther best houses are demolished, quherthrow a great pairt of ther inhabitants are fled to Ireland, that ther comon good is exhausted, and what comon good they had is totallie bestowed for a help toward the payment of ther cess, and therfor desyring the convention to take ther sad condition to consideration and to ease them of thair heavie burdens, oytherwayes they will be necessitat to apply to the parliament to the end they may resign ther priviledge as a royall burgh; the convention appoynts the burghs of Ayr, Irving, Jedburgh, Wigtoun, Whythorn and Gallaway, or any three of them, to visit the said burgh, take tryall of the condition of the same, and report to the nixt generall convention.

Servants fies.

39. Allowed to Alexander Gay 80 merks, to Henry Kinloch £30 Scots and to George Moncur, officer, £40 Scots, besides their ordinary fees of 100 merks, £50, and 100 merks, respectively; to the agent's servant ten dollars and to the servant that sweeps the house two rex dollars.

19 July 1689.

Commissioners to consult anent severall affairs.

40. The convention "considering that ther are severall particulars concerning the good and interest of the royall borrowes mentioned in the tuentie eight act of this convention which are not as yet brought to any maturity and rypnes, ther being non of them presented to parliament, and least they should either prove abortive or miscarie by dissolving of this present convention," they appointed such of their number as are members of parliament "to prosecut the samen to a full perfection" and to meet and consider these and such other matters as may concern the interest of the burghs during this session of parliament.

Agent, gratuity.

41. Allowed to the agent £500 Scots of gratuity.

Kintoir, Innerury.

42. Exempted the burghs of Kintoir and Innerury from sending commissioners to conventions for three years.

Nixt generall convention.

43. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1690.

44. Allowed to George Moncur, officer and post to the burghs, and Andrew Moncur his brother, £100 Scots for trouble in warning the commissioners to conventions. EDINBURGH. 19 July 1689. George and Andrew Moncur.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 13 August 1689. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Thomas Crawfurd, dean of gild, and George Stirling, chirurgian; Perth, Robert Smith; Dundie, John Duncan; Aberdeen, Alexander Gordoun; Linlithgow, William Hagins; St Andrews, James Smith; Air, John Muir; Kirkcaldie, John Boswell; Montross, James Mudie; Anstruther Eister, David Spence; Dumfreis, James Kennan; Bruntisland, John Broun; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spitell; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Irving, Hugh Broune; Kirkcudbright, John Ewart; Pittenweem, Captain John Aitchison; Dumfermling, Sir Patrick Murray; Anstruther Wester, Maister Robert Cleilland; Selkirk, William Mitchell; Dunbar, William Kirkwood; Lanerk, Thomas Hamilton; Northberwick, Thomas Stewart of Coltnes; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamilton; Glasgow, Haddingtoun, Couper, Jedburgh, Dumbartoun, Peibles, Carraill, Bamff, Rutherglen, and Cullen, (*blank*).

13 August 1689.

1. Sir John Hall of Dunglas, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. Approved of all the commissions produced. Commissions approved.

14 August 1689.

3. The convention appoynts the commissionars for Dundie, Dumfermling, Pittenweem and Irving to repair to his grace the Duke of Hamilton, his Majesties late commissionar, and signifie to his grace that the present particular conventione have wnanimously condescended to make application to the Kings Majesty that the grivances of the royall borrowes may be recomended particularly to his Majesties commissionar at the meitting of the nixt session of parliament which is appoynted to meet vpon the eight day of October nixt. Grivances.

4. The convention taking to ther consideration the missive sent to them by the lord provost of Edinburgh, bearing that it wes indispensiblie necessar at this tyme that application be made to his Majestie * by the Commissioners to court.

* In the record the words originally written "ther Majesties" have been altered to "his Majestie;" and similar alterations have been made throughout the act and the address contained in it. The address appears to have been intended at first for King William and Queen Mary, but eventually to have been presented to the king alone.

EDINBURGH. 14 August 1689.

royall borrowes anent ther grivances, wherof noe pairt is as yet redressed, especially as to those grivances in relation to trade, the convention returns his lordship ther most hearty thanks for his care in the borrowes concerns, and having taken the said missive to ther consideratioun they find it necessar that som of ther number should be sent expres to court for that effect, and having experience of the fitnes, ability, and knouledge of Sir James Ogilvie, Sir William Hamiltoun, advocats, and Dauid Spence, merchant, they doe therfor elect and chose the saids Sir James Ogilvie, Sir William Hamilton and David Spence to be ther commissioners furthwith to repair to court and to present to his Majestie the following adress of the royall borrowes, and to doe ther outmost endeavor to obtane the desyre therof granted, wherof the tenor followes:—To the Kings most sacred Majestie, the humble address of the commissionars of the royall borrowes of your Majesties ancient kingdome of Scotland. Wheras wee being amongst the first zealous asserters and ouners of your Majesties authority in this kingdome, and does firmely resolve for ourselves and in name of all that we doe represent to mantaine the samen for the futur with our lyves and fortuns, judging our happines both as to our religious and civill concerns to be inseperable from your Majesties welfar and interest, and therfor are incouradged to represent to your Majestie the speciall grivance following lying on our trade. For as much as it wes the undoubted and vnquestionable priviledge of your royall borrowes, by a constant and uninterrupted series of lawes and acts of parliament for many hundreds of years in ther favores, to have the trade both of export and import within this kingdome, wherby not only the kingdome in generall did floorish and the royall borrows therby rendered mor capable to serve your Majesties royall ancestors, having our immediat dependance vpon the thron, and supporting the samyn by bearing a sext pairt of the whole publict burdens of the kingdom, besyds the payment of our custome and excyse, and being lyable to watching and wairding and keeping, mantaining, and building of prison houses for the benefit and advantadge of the wholl subjects of the kingdome, and wes in some tollerable condition to have continowed to serve the royall authority towards these ends untill of late, whyll arbitrary government wes creiping in upon us, by one strock of ane act of parliament in the year 1672 the saids numerous lawes and acts of parliament soe often confirmed made in our favores wer whollie cut of and our trade communicat to the inhabitants of the burghs of

Commissioners to court.

Address to his Majestie.

regalities and barronies whoe hes ther immediat dependance and holds ther lands of vther superiors and not of your Majestie as your royall borroues does and bears noe pairt of our burden, wherby we are outterly ruined in our trade and the mean of our lyveliehood and subsistance whollie taken from us. May it therfor pleas your sacred Majesty to instruct your commissionar to the nixt session of parliament to give the royall assent to such ane act as shall be voted by the estaits of parliament for redressing the said grivance, and your Majestie may be assured that non of your subjects shall be mor forward to serve your interest with ther lyves and fortuns then, may it pleas your sacred Majestie, your Majesties most humble, most dewtifull, and most obedient subjects and servands, the commissionars of the royall borroues of your Majesties kingdom of Scotland. Signed in presence and by warrand of the saids commissionars by our preses.

EDINBURGH. 14 August 1689.

Address to his Majesty.

5. Allowed to the commissioners appointed by the preceding act the sum of £200 sterling for their charges and expenses.

Expenses of commissioners.

6. It being represented to the convention by Mr John Buchan, ther agent, that he intends to goe to London about his necessar affaires, and does offer his dewtie and service to the royall borrous, and if he can be any wayes steidable to assist in carieing on of ther affaires at court he will not faill to do all that is in his power, the convention accepts of his offer and recomends to him to concur and assist ther commissionars in what may relait to the interest of the borrous, declaring that they will heirefter take to consideration his services ther as they shall sie caus.

Liberty to agent to repair to London.

7. The convention thinks it fit that a letter be written to the Lord Melvin, sole secretar to his Majestie for this kingdome, to be delyvered to his lordship by ther said commissionar, wherof the tenor followes:—May it pleas your lordship. The royall borrowes being in great expectation to have had some of ther grivances redressed the last session of parliament, and cheifly the abrogatting the act of parliament the tenth of July 1672 wherby ther priviledges in relation to trade is taken from them and made over to unfrie places, such as regalities and barronies, bot being then disappoynted and least the same should be again delayed they have thought fit to call this convention a purpose to make address to his sacred Majestie* that his Majesties commissionar may be instructed against the nixt

Letter to secretary of state.

* The same alterations have been made throughout this letter as have been made in the 4th act. See footnote, p. 99.

EDINBURGH. 14 August 1689.

Letter to secretary of state.

session of parliament to give the royall assent to such ane act as shall be voted by the parliament for redressing of the said grivance, and soe carfull are they that the said affair should not be neglected that they have sent Sir James Ogilvie, Sir William Hamilton, advocats, and David Spence, merchant, thre. of ther number, expres, to present ther most humble adress to his Majestie concerning the premisses, and hes ordored me in ther names to intreat your lordships assistance to ther commissionars in carieing on the said affair, which being the first fruits of your lordships ministrie in ther concerns will in a most signall maner ingadge them both to gratitud and to continow unalterable, may it pleas your lordship, your lordships most humble and affectionat servands. Signed in presence and at desyre of the commissionars of the royall borrowes.

15 August 1689.

Act anent Sir James Couper, conservatorship.

8. The convention taking to ther consideration the petition given in to them by Sir James Cowper, bearing that efter his long absence in the East Indeans, wher and in other forraigne nations he attained great honor and credit, and that efter he brought the East India Dutch fleet to Holland he wes solicet by severall of his cuntriemen, particularly the Scots factors, to make application to the royall borrowes for a recommendation to the Kings Majestie for the conservatorship of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, bot the generall convention wer disolved befor his aryvall at this place, and therfor he thought fit to apply himself to this particular convention for the said recomendation, and if the said office should be conferred vpon him he assured the convention he wold mentaine the honor of the place (though it should cost him a pairt of his oune means) and should be very faithfull in the exercise of his office, and therfor craveand the convention to favor him with ane recomendation to the Kings Majestie for preference to the said office, and in the meantyme till he procure his gift to authorize him to exerce the said office; which petition and desyre forsaid being considered by the convention they declare they are weell satisfied with the good report and reputation the petitioner hes acquyred to the honor of his countrie by his deportment abroad in forraigne places bot finds they are not authorized to ansuer fully his desyre in relation to the conservators office and therfore they doe recomend the petitioner to the royall borrowes whoe are members of the

nixt session of parliament to consider the said petition and doe therin as they shall think fitt. EDINBURGH. 15 August 1689.

9. Unlawed certain burghs in fifty pounds Scots each for absence from the convention. Unlaws for absence.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 26 March 1690.

Edinburgh, James Maklurg, dean of gild, and George Stirling, chirurgian; Aberdeen, Alexander Gordoun; Stirling, John Dick; Linlithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Anderson; Air, John Muir; Bruntisland, Alexander Ged; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spitell; Irving, Maister Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoun, Maister James Smollet; Dumbar, William Kirkwood; Cullen, Sir James Ogilvie; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamilton. (Eleven burghs *blank*). Sederunt.

26 March 1690.

1. Sir John Hall of Dunglas, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. The convention having revised the commissions found them sufficient. Commissions approven.

3. The same day, Sir James Ogilvie and Sir William Hamilton, advocats, commissionars appoynted by the royall borrowes to present ther addres to his Majesty, having presented to this convention his Majesties gracious answer to ther said addres, which wes publictly red in presence of the convention and after reading therof ordored to be recorded, wherof the tenor heirof followes:—WILLIAM R. Gentlemen; In our declaration for Scotland wee had particular consideration of the encroachments made upon the royall borrowes. The grievances in relation to them are generall and ther is nothing particularly mentioned that does so directly concern the royall borrows as the 27 act 3 sess. 1 parl: K: Ch. the 2d. Concerning the power of disposall of forraigne trade wee gave instructions to our commissionar not only to rectifie that act but lykwise to ratifie thar priviledges of the royall borroughs and to secure ther rights in the choosing of ther owne magistrats that they might not be invaded for the futur, and in generall wee did authorise and instruct our commissionar to make lawes for the encouragement of trade, soe ther was no reason why the royall burroughs should doubt that ther wes any thing wanting upon our His Majesties gracious answer.

EDINBURGH. 26 March. 1689.

pairt to give them ease and content. Wee take weell the cheerfull offer of the royall burroughs to serve us and wee will expect they will make it good and not suffer themselves to be imposed upon to mistake ther oune interest. They may be assured wee will not faill to redres whatever is justly grievous to the nation, and particularly what is burdensom to the royall borroughs, in whom we have a particular interest. This answer in wrytting you are to communicat to these whoe sent you. Given at our court at Hamptoun the 27 day of September, 1689, and of our reigne the first year. By his Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* MELVILL. For the commissioners of the royall burroughs. Which being considered by the convention they doe approve of the said commissioners dilligence in the said affair and gives them ther thanks for the pains taken by them in ther concerns.

His Majesties gracious answer.

Commission to conservator.

4. Compeired Mr Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn whoe produced his commission under the great seall granted by his Majesty to him to be conservator of the Netherlands during all the dayes of his lyftyme, which commission the convention ordored to be publictly red in ther presence, and after reading therof they did appoynt the said commission to be considered and to search the records of the royall burroughs anent preceiding conservators admissions and what dewes is in vse to be payed to them and to consider a sufficient allowance for mantaining the honor and dignity of a conservator.

27 March 1690.

Commission to be recorded.

5. The convention having considered Mr Andrew Kennedys commission they find the samen alse full and ample as to the generall claus as any former comission ever hath been granted to any other conservator, and they appoynt the said commission to be insert in ther records, both the Latin and the Inglish coppies, and for that effect ordanes ther clerks efter the disolving of this present convention to insert the samen in the borrow books.

Conservators dues.

6. The convention having perused Mr Andrew Kennedys commission, togither with the commission granted to the deceist Sir James Kennedy, late conservator in the Netherlands, and the dewes and exactions contained in the said Sir James Kennedys commission, they find the saids dewes and exactions to be exorbitant and tending to the prejudice of the state of borroughs, and having considered the former dewes and exactions in use to be payed befor the said Sir James Kennedys gift to be too litle

and not able for mantaining the dignity and charge of the conservators office in the Netherlands, the convention are of oppinion and doe recommend that the nixt generall convention of burroughs should allow to the said Mr Andrew Kennedy three hundred pound sterling yearly, which they esteem at present ane sufficient allowance for mantaining the dignity and charge of the said office of conservatorship, and that for three years to come and therefter yearly during ther pleasur and ay and whyll the samen be recalled by a generall convention, and lykwayes they doe authorize and impower the commissioners for Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dundy, Montros, Air, Invernes, Dumbarton, Linlithgow, Stirling and Bamff, or any three of them to be a quorum, to meet as a comitty at any tyme betuixt and the doun sitting of the nixt convention and to offer and report ther oppinion to the said convention anent the way and maner of vplifting and collecting the said soume of three hundred pound sterling. EDINBURGH. 27 March 1690. Conservators dues.

7. The convention taking to ther consideration that the royall borrowes of this kingdome will be fullie and sufficiently represented at the insewing session of parliament which is to sitt doune the fyfteen day of Apryll nixt, and that they will be equivalent to a generall convention of burrowes provyding they have speciall commissions from ther respective burghs to meet as a convention of burrowes to consult and determin vpon the generall affaires relaiting to the royall borrowes, and particularly at this tyme to take vnder ther consideration the gift granted by his Majestie of the conservators office in favors of Mr. Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn, and if they will allow him three hundred pound Sterling yearly, which is the soume the particular convention of the maratime burghs does judge a suitable subsistance for mantaining the dignitie and charge of the conservator, and how and in what maner of way the same should be vplifted and payed, and as to what injunctions, ordors, and instructions they intend to give the said Mr Andrew in the execution of his office, and when he should go over to Holland to exerce the said office, and what gratuity they will be pleased to allow in ordor to his transportation ther, which they heirby remit to the nixt conventione, therfor ordanes ther preses, Sir John Hall of Dunglas, to wryt a missive to every particular royall burgh to send with ther commissionar to parliament, or any others they think fitt to intrust, a particular commissione, and incaice ther said commissioner be alredy in Edinburgh that they send the same to him Conservator general convention.

EDINBURGH. 27 March 1690.

Conservator, general convention.

ther to meet with the remanent commissioners of borrowes at Edinburgh the 22 day of Appryll nixt, with full power to them to deliberat, conclude, and put to a finall setlement the affaires of borrowes in relation to ther said conservator in all the heads, poynts, and branches therof above specified.

French papers relating to 50 solze per tun.

8. The convention, vpon report of the lord provost of Edinburgh, ther preses, that at his desyre he did ordor the clerk of the royall borrous, in absence of Mr John Buchan, ther agent, he being then at London, to give in ane petition to the lords of privie councill anent the French papers relating to the fyfty solze per tun belonging to the royall borrous quhich wer in the custody of the keeper of the register, and by ane act of his majesties privie councill all the saids papers and patents wer delyvered vp, the convention approves of ther said preses his care and dilligence in ther concerns and affaires, and they ordane all the saids French papers and patents to lye in ther clerks hands till the next meetting of the borrous, conforme to the inventar produced; and they ordane Mr John Buchan, ther agent, to pay ther clerk what charges he hes bein at in the said affair conforme to ane particular accompt to be given in by him.

Commission in favor of Andrew Kennedy, conservator. 1 Nov. 1689.

COMMISSION *in favor of* ANDREW KENNEDY, *Conservator of the privileges of the Scots nation at Campheer, referred to in the 5th Act of the foregoing Convention.*

GULIELMUS ET MARIA, Dei gratia Magne Britannie, Francie et Hibernie, Rex et Regina, fideique defensores, anno primo. Omnibus probis hominibus ad quos presentes litere nostre pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nobis abunde satisfactum sit de magistrj Andree Kennedie de Clouburn ejus erga nos fide illiusque fidelitate et integritate, suaque etiam amplitudine et facultatibus ad munera et officia conservatoris privilegiorum subditis nostris antiquj nostrj Scotie regnj in Belgio concessorum necnon residentis nostrj pro omnibus quibuscunque dictj regnj nostrj negotijs intra omnes septemdecem Belgij provinciarum limites, quam exquisite perfungenda necessarijs: Noveritis igitur nos fecisse, constituisse, et nominasse, tenoreque presentium facimus, nominamus, et constituimus prefatum magistrum Andream Kennedum, pro toto vite sue tempore, conservatorem dictorum privilegiorum subditis nostris dictj antiquj regnj nostrj Scotie in Belgio concessorum; acetiam nominamus, facimus, et constituimus memoratum magistrum Andream Kennedum (durante spacio

EDINBURGH. 27 March 1690.

Commission in favor of Andrew Kennedy, conservator. 1 Nov. 1689.

antedicto) residentem nostrum pro omnibus quibuscunque dictj regnj negotijs intra integros septemdecem Belgij provinciarum limites; ipsique damus et concedimus predicta munera et officia non minore potestatis, privilegij, juris, et libertatis, amplitudine, quam quibis alius conservator seu residens quovis tempore preterito potitus est, et speciatim cum potestate illj deputatos suos unum seu plures in dictis officijs (pro quibus respondere tenebit), cum clericis, ministris, assessoribus, omnibusque alijs curie officiarijs, nominandj et constituendj eosque pro arbitrio locandj et ex auctorandj, admittendj, et eliminandj, cum potestate illj dictis officijs, cum omnibus dignitatibus, privilegijs, libertatibus, immunitatibus, feodis et casualitatibus eo legittime spectantibus, per se suosque deputatos modo predicto vtendj et exercendj perque servos suos et collectores omnia et singula emolumenta, census, et casualitates ad dicta officia conservatoris et residentis pertinentia, vel que ad eadem vel alterutrum eorum pertinere et spectare poterint, rogandj, levandj, exigendj, et recipiendj, cumque potestate illj delinquentium personas seu corpora capiendj et apprehendendj eorumque, bona distringendj et vendendj; requirimus pariter et mandamus omnibus dictj regnj nostrj subditis mercatoribus presertim factoribus, navarchis, omnibusque alijs quorum presentes intersunt seu interesse poterint, ut dictum magistrum Andream Kennedum ejusque deputatos in fidelj dictorum duorum officiorum functione omnj qua par est reverentia, honore, respectu et obedientia, afficiant, colant et prosequantur; utque ipsj suisque deputatis collectoribus alijsve ejus nomine omnia feoda redditus et emolumenta ad utrum libet dictorum duorum officiorum pertinentia vel que eodem (durante tempore predicto) pertinere dignoscentur sub summa pena et prout nobis respondebunt sinj contrarium fecerint prompte et grato animo persolvant. In cujus rej testimonium presentibus, magnum sigillum nostrum appendj precepimus, apud Aulam nostram de Holland House, primo die mensis Novembris anno Dominj millesimo sexcentesimo octuagesimo nono regnique nostrj primo. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis suprascripturam. Sic scribitur a tergo: Written to the great seale and registrat the twentie eight day off Januarie 1690: Sic subscribitur WILL. KERR. And sealled at Edinburgh the eight off Februarij, 1690. Sic subscribitur: A. INGLIS.

Tennor of commission in English.

Here followes the tennor of the abovewritten commission, in English:— WILLIAM, Rex. Our Soveraigne Lord and Lady ordain a letter to

EDINBURGH. 27 March 1690.

Tennor of commission to conservator, in English. 1 Nov. 1689.

be made and past under there Majesties great seall of there ancient kingdome of Scotland, makeing mentione that there Majesties being fully satisfied with the loyalty, fidelity, and integrity of maister Andrew Kennedy of Clowburne, and of his fittness and qualificationes for exactly dischargeing the duties of the place and office of conservator of the priviledges granted to the subjects of there said ancient kingdome of Scotland in the Netherlands, as also there Majesties resident for all affairs of thair said kingdome of Scotland in the whole bounds of the sevinteen provinces of the Low Cuntries: Therefore to have made, constitute, and appoynted, lykeas there Majesties by these presents make, constitute, and appoynte the said maister Andrew Kennedy, dureing all the dayes of his naturall life, conservator of the said priviledges granted to the subjects of there Majesties said ancient kingdome of Scotland in the Netherlandes, and moreover makeing, constituteing, and appoynting, lykeas there Majesties by these presents make, constitute, and appoynt the said maister Andrew Kennedy (dureing the space forsaid) ther Majesties resident for all affairs of thair said kingdome of Scotland in the whole bounds of the seventeen provinces of the Low Cuntryes; giveing and granting the said offices unto him with no lesse amplitude of power, priviledge, right, and liberty then any conservator or resident hade at any tyme heretofore; and yeirly with power unto him to appoynt and constitute deputes one or more under him (for quhom he shall be answerable) in the said offices, as also clerks, servants, assessors, and all other necessar officers of court, and them to place or displace and to addmitt or extrude at his pleasure; with power unto him to use and exerce the said offices (with all dignitys, priviledges, libertys, immunities, fies, and casualtys justly belonging to the same, by himself or his deputts in maner aforesaid, and by his servants and collectors to crave, exact, uplift, and receive all and sundry the rents, emoluments, and casualities pertaining to the said ofice of conservator and resident or which might have pertained or belonged unto them or either of them; and with power unto him to take and apprehend the persons and to destrenyie and sell the goods of delinquents; there Majesties commanding, and they doe hereby requyre and command all there subjects of there said kingdome, especially the merchants and factors, masters of ships and all others whom thir presents doe or may concern, that they honor, respect, and obey the said maister Andrew

Kenedy and his deputts with all due reverence in there faithfull discharge of the said two offices; and that they readily and thankfully pey unto him, his said deputts, collectors, or vtheris officers in his name, all fies, rents, and emoluments pertayning or which may pertain to either of the said two offices (dureing the space forsaid) under all highest payne and as they will answere the contrary at there perrill. Requyring hereby thee directors of there Majesties chancellary or deputts to wryte this present commissione (in the most ample forme, with all claussis needfull), and the lord chancellor or keepers of the great seall for the tyme being to cause the samyne to be appended therto without passing any vther seall or register, for doeing whereoff this shall be to them and all others who may be therin concerned a sufficient warrant. Given at the Court at Holland House, the first day off November 1689 yeirs, and of there Maiesties reigne the first yeir.

EDINBURGH. 27 March 1690.

Tennor of commission to conservator, in English. 1 Nov. 1689.

Followes the doccatt of the said commissione:—May it please your Majesties. These contayne your Majesties warrant for a letter to be past (*per saltum*) under the great seall of your ancient kingdome of Scotland, makeing, constituteing, and appoynting maister Andrew Kennedy of Clowburne, dureing all the dayes of his naturall life, conservator of the priviledges granted to your subjects of the said kingdome in the Netherlands, and your Majesties resident for all affairs of your said kingdome in the whole bounds of the seventeen provinces of the Low Countrys; giveing and granting the offices of conservator and resident as afforsaid unto the said maister Andrew Kennedy, with no lesse amplitude of power, right, priviledge and liberty as any conservator and resident ever hade at any tyme heretofore, with all dignitys, priviledges, libertys, immunities, fies, and casualitys pertayning to them or either of them; with full power unto him to appoynte and constitute deputts one or more under him (for whom he shall be ansuereable) in the said offices and all other members needfull, and to uplift and receiue all fees, rents, and emoluments pertayning or which may pertayne to either of the saids offices. *Sic subscribitur:* MELVILL.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 22 April 1690.

Edinburgh, James Maklurg, dean of gild, and George Stirling, chirurgion; Perth, Robert Smith; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Alexander Gordoun; Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 22 April 1690. Sederunt. Stirling, John Dick; Linlithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Anderson; Air, John Moor; Haddingtoun, Maister James Lawder; Montross, James Mudie; Couper, Robert Melvill; Dumfreis, James Kennan; Inverness, John Cuthbert; Bruntisland, Alexander Ged; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spitall; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Irving, Maister Alexander Cuninghame; Kirkcudbrigh, John Ewart; Wigtoun, William Coltran; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, Sir Charles Halket; Selkirk, Maister John Murray; Dumbartoun, Maister James Smollet; Rhenfrew, Maister William Cochran; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Thomas Hamilton; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stiven; Elgin, James Stewart; Peibles, John Muir; Carraill, George Moncreiff; Tayn, William Ross; Culross, Maister William Erskin; Bamff, Walter Stewart; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rutherglen, John Scott; Northberwick, Thomas Stewart; Cullen, Sir James Ogilvie; Kilrennie, David Simpson; Sancquhar, Maister John Boswald; Quensferrie, Sir William Hamilton; Week, Maister Archbald Sinclar; (twenty-three burghs, *blank*.)

22 April 1690.

Preses. 1. Sir John Hall of Dunglas, baronet, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Revising commissions. 2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

23 April 1690.

Preses. 3. James Maklurg, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses in absence of the provost of Edinburgh.

Commissions approven. 4. Approved of the commissions except that for Anstruther Wester "which they reject inrespect the samen is only signed by the clerk and wants the comon seall of the burgh."

Comitty. 5. [Appointed a committee to] take vnder ther consideration the wholl heads of the missive direct to them and to search the registers of the royall borrowes and report to the convention what right the borrowes hes or had to the nomination or presentation of a conservator or any other acts contained in the records anent the said office.

5 May 1690.

Act anent burghs of barony. 6. The convention appoynts that the act in favores of the royall borrowes anent the burghs of regalities and barronies which the last generall convention approved of should be presented to parliament, and

recomends to the provost of Edinburgh, ther preses, with any others of the borroues he shall call for, to wait vpon his grace the commissioner befor the doun sitting of the parliament and delyver the double of the said act to him and receave his answer. EDINBURGH. 5 May 1690.

13 May 1690.

7. The convention having heard the report of the comitty whoe wer appoynted to search the records of the royall borrowes, and to take exact information of what right the borrowes hes or had to the nomination, presentation, or recomendatioun of the conservator, doe find efter they had pervsed the saids records ther hes bein various debaits anent the nomination of the person, but his Majesties gift alwayes prevailled, and that the borrowes have bein in constant use to protest or reserve that his Majesties nomination might not prejudge the interest of the royall borrowes in any tyme heirefter as accords of the law. Report anent nomination of conservator.

27 May 1690.

8. The which day, Maister Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn having compeired in presence of the convention of borrowes and produced ane commission vnder the great seall of this kingdome of the date the first day of November 1689, granted by ther Majesties to him during all the dayes of his lyftyme, to be conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, and yet notwithstanding of the said commission and that it doeth containe ane generall claus as to the fies and emoluments of the said office to be vplifted by him alse fullie and freelie as any other conservator hes bein in vse formerly to vplift, yet the said Maister Andrew Kennedy does by thir presents, notwithstanding of any claus contained in his gift, fully and freely submit himself to the determination of this present convention as to his dewes and emoluments to be payed to him and that he shall observe such rules and instructions theranent as the royall borrowes shall prescryve to him and that he will not exceid the raits sett doun in the table to be signed and given him by the royall borrowes. In testimony wherof he hes subscryved this present act which is insert in the burgh register. Andrew Kennedy. Kennedy, conservator, submits himself to the determination of the convention.

9. Compeired Maister Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn and produced Act of admission.

EDINBURGH. 27 May 1690.

Kennedy, conservator.

his gift in presence of the convention, granted to him from ther Majesties vnder the great seall of the kingdome of Scotland, appoynting him to be conservator of the priviledges of the Scots nation in the Netherlands during all the dayes of his lyftyme, which gift being considered by the convention, and they being fullie satisfied with the abilities and other fitt qualifications of the said Maister Andrew Kennedy and of his knowen experience and the good hopes they have of his civill and obleidging deportment in the said office, have approven and heirby approves of the said gift granted to him during his lyftyme and admits and receaves the said Maister Andew Kennedy to be conservator of the priviledges of the Scots nation in the Netherlands, and allowes to him the dewes and emoluments of the said office, conforme to the table to be signed by the borrowes and delyvered to him, which is heirby declared to be the only rule to him in all tyme coming for vplifting the saids dewes and emoluments; reserving and declaring alwayes that the approbation, receiving, and admitting of the said Maister Andrew Kennedy, conforme to his gift, to be conservator, should noewayes prejudge the interest or priviledges of the royall borrowes of choysing and nominating ane conservator in tyme coming as accords of the law; and the said Maister Andrew Kennedy being personally present accepting his office made faith *de fideli administratione* and obleidged himself to subscryve and observe such rules and instructions as the royall borrowes shall prescryve to him.

Conservators dewes and instructions.

10. Appointed a committee "to meet and take vnder ther consideration the table of the conservators dewes and to revise the former instructions granted by the borrowes to the conservator and report ther opinion to the convention."

9 June 1690.

Anent keeping dyets of conventions.

11. The convention considering the great negligence of the commissionars of the royall borrowes sent to generall or particular conventions in not attending the dyets prescryved by them and therby retards the generall affaires of the royall borrowes, for remeid wherof in all tyme coming the convention statuts and ordaines that ilk commissionar sent by any royall borrow to generall or particular conventions doe attend the particular dyets prescrvyed to them by the last adjournment or by ther preses during the sitting of the said generall or particular conventions,

and in caice any member be absent two severall dyets immediately succeiding, without ane reasonable excuse approven by the convention, shall be esteimed as absent from the said generall or particular conventions and his burgh fyned, which faylzie soe incurred the convention appoynts ther agent to exact the samen and be accomptable therfor, and ordanes letters of horning to be raised at the agents instance against ther burghs, which burghs are heirby declared to have repayment and repetition of ther said commissionar of the said fyne; and ordanes ane coppie of this act to be sent to every royall burgh and read at the first meetting of any generall or particular conventions heirefter. EDINBURGH. 9 June 1690. Anent keeping dyets of conventions.

12. Appointed a committee to meet and "consider the grievances of the royall borroues that they may be represented to parliament to be redressed." County, grievances.

11 June 1690.

13. The commissioner for Aberdeen protested that there should be no augmentation of the conservator's table of dues till the general convention meet in July next, to which protest the commissioner for Montrose adhered. Protestation, conservators dues.

14. Referring to the eighth act passed on 27th May last, the convention ordained that the sum of £300 sterling yearly should be paid to Andrew Kennedy, conservator, "out of the trade of this kingdome, as a compitent allowance to support the dignity and charge of the said office," and remitted to the general convention to meet in July next to "determine the particular method how the same shall be made effectuall to the said conservator either by augmenting the dewes of the former table or otherwayes as they shall think fitt." £300 sterling yearly to conservator.

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, James Maklurg, dean of gild, and George Stirling, chirurgion; Perth, Robert Smith; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Alexander Gordoun; Stirling, John Dick; Linlithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Anderson; Air, John Moor; Haddington, Maister James Lawder, Kirkcaldie, James Lundie; Montross, Maister Robert Taylyeor; Couper, Robert Melvill; Anstruther Eister, James Lawson; Dumfreis, James Kennan; Inverness, John Cuthbert; Bruntisland, Alexander Ged; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spitell; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Brichen, James Coway; Irving, Maister Alexander Cuningham; Jedburgh, John Rutherfoord; Kirkcudbright, John Ewart; Wigtoun, William Coltran; Pittenweem, George Smith; Anstruther EDINBURGH. 1 July 1690. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1690.

Sederunt.

Wester, Mr Robert Cleilland; Selkirk, William Mitchelhill; Dumbartoun, Maister James Smollet; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Thomas Hamilton; Elgin, William Calder; Peibles, John Muir; Carraill, George Moncreif; Tayn, William Ross; Culross, Maister William Erskin; Bamff, Walter Stewart; Whythorn, Patrick Murdoch; Rutherglen, John Scott; Northberwick, Sir Thomas Stewart; Lauder, David Maitland; Kilrennie, Thomas Peacok; Stanraer, Sir Patrick Murray; (twenty-three burghs *blank*).

1 July 1690.

Preses.

1. Sir John Hall of Dunglas, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Commissions.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions and report.

2 July 1690.

Commissions approved.

3. The convention approved of the whole commissions.

Heads of missive.

4. Appointed a committee to consider the missive and report their opinion on each head to the convention.

Brandie.

5. Instructed the same committee "to draw up reasons whey brandie ought not to be discharged to be imported by act of parliament."

Selkirk, Forfar.

6. Granted liberty to the commissioner for Selkirk to return home, and excused the absence of Forfar.

Keeping dyets of convention.

7. The convention revived the eleventh act of the convention in June last, and of new ordained that any commissioner who after producing his commission should be absent from two successive diets, without reasonable excuse, should incur the usual fine for absence. It was also ordained that nineteen at general, and thirteen at particular, conventions should be held a "sufficient number to represent the royall borrowes."

12 July 1690.

Heads of missive.

8. Continued till next general convention heads of the missive relating to qualifications of commissioners, stopping of monopolies, Dumbarton bridge, freemen partners with unfreemen, residence in royal burrows, uniformity of measures, and the creditors of Thomas Cunninghame, factor in Campheer.

Visitations of burghs.

9. Referring to the visitations which the convention had appointed to be made to certain burghs, and considering "that severall of the saids burghs, by the troubles arysing and difficulties of the tymes, occasioned by the war, did hinder the reporting their particular conditions to the convention," the commissioners continued the visitations of the burghs of Glasgow, Inverness, Peibles, Irving, Sanquhar, Rhenfrew, Forfar, Quensferry, Elgin, Pittenweem, Kirkcudbright and Bamff, conform to former acts.

Kirkcaldy and Montross, tax roll.

10. Having considered reports as to Kirkcaldie and Montross, the convention appointed these burghs to be eased in the tax roll, Kirkcaldie in 11s. 8d., and

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1690.

Montross in 10s. Scots, and appointed these sums to be laid on the following burghs, viz., Aberdeen, 10s., Dundie, 6s. 8d., and Dumfreis, 5s.

Elgin, tax roll.

11. The convention eased the burgh of Burntisland of 7s. in the tax roll and laid 4s. thereof on Elgin and 3s. on Kirkwall.

St Andrews, Forfar, tax roll.

12. The convention eased the burgh of St. Andrews of 5s. Scots in the tax roll and laid 1s. each on Dumfermling, Aberbrothock, Rothesay, Forres and Lochmaben; and also eased the burgh of Culross of 3s. in the tax roll and laid the same on the burgh of Forfar.

Dysart.

13. The convention considering "the poor and mean condition of the burgh of Dysart" recommended to the preses, with advice of such of the burghs as are in town, to assist the burgh in all their concerns and particularly in obtaining warrant from the secret council for choosing new magistrates and council and in settling all debates between the burgh and Lord Sinclair.

Conservator.

14. Ratified the acts of last general convention in favor of Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn as conservator of the Netherlands.

Conservators dewes.

15. After having fully considered as to the particular method by which the allowance to the conservator should be paid, the convention found that for payment of dues by merchants the same should no more be laid upon the sack of goods but upon the value of goods transported to the staple port, therefore they ordained that in all time coming fifteen stivers upon the value of the hundred gilders of goods should be exacted by the conservator and his deputies from merchants, and skippers to pay upon the sack of goods as formerly. All dues for other than staple goods to be paid to the conservator as in the time of his predecessors, and factors on their admission and merchants at their first voyage to pay as formerly. The commissioner for Aberdeen protested against this act.

Gordoun, factor at Campheir.

16. The convention, considering "ther are no factors for the present legallie setled at Campher, and to the effict that a present expedient may be fallen upon for the weell and interest of the royall borrows and the merchants trading to the Netherlands, that ther goods be not squandered away in the meantyme for the want of care and industry of factors," they accepted the offer of Alexander Gordoun, provost of Aberdeen, to bind himself for William Gordoun, in Holland, that he shall account for all goods belonging to Scots merchants intromitted with by him.

Scots poor in Campheir.

17. The convention "doe earnestly recomend to Mr Andrew Kennedy of Clouburn, present conservator, to doe his outmost dilligence in procuring payment from the toune of Campheir of such soumes of money lying in ther hands belonging to the Scots poor."

Instructions to conservator.

18. The instructions given by the royall borrowes to Mr Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn, present conservator, being read in presence of the royall borrowes, wer approven by the convention and signed by the conservator, wherof the tenor followes:—

EDINBURGH, 12 July 1690.

Instructions to conservator.

(1) Imprimis, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy shall not at any tyme heirefter demit the office of conservator to any person or persons except to the Kings Majestie or with the consent and assent of the borrowes had and obtained therto.

(2) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy hath power to place deputs at the staple port, as also in Scotland, for the better putting in practise the ordors of the borrowes; for which deputs he shall be answerable in the saids offices for ther qualificationes and discharge of ther deuty, and in caice any complant be given in against them the same is to be tryed be the borrowes at ther generall or particular conventions; as lykwayes if the borrowes have any just caus against them whey they ought not to be deputs in the said office the said Mr Andrew Kennedy shall remove them.

(3) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy or his deputs during ther said office shall remain at the staple port quherever the samen shall happen to be for the tyme, and shall not direct themselues therfrae (without some important caus notified either to the borrowes or burgh of Edinburgh by ther letter) bot attend ther office ther and shall concur with the nation in protecting them from violence and suiting reparation and redress of wrongs throw any pairt of the wholl seventein provinces vpon the reasonable charges of the pairty.

(4) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy [or his deputs] shall keep courts conforme to the acts of parliament and shall not suffer any factor to assist them or sit in judgement with them in noe tyme to come bot shall be assisted be the merchands or masters of ships of the nation ther for the tyme whoe shall be obleidged to give ther oath *de fideli.*

(5) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy or his deputs shall put the acts of the generall or particular convention of borrowes (made or to be made) to executione against all wnfrie tradders and factors, and in speciall shall not suffer any factor to trade or trafique, vnder the pain of deprivation of ther offices as factors.

(6) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy or his deputs shall not suffer any person to use the office of factor within the seuinteen provinces except they have bein first admitted to that office be the generall or particular conventions of borrowes and that they shew them ane certificat subscryved be the clerk of borrowes makeand mention of ther admission and finding caution conforme to the ordor accustomed, and then, they paying to the

said Mr Andrew Kennedy, as conservator, of the dewties accustomed to be payed at thair admission, they shall take ther oath at the staple port and exerce all other authority over them belonging to them as conservators either be acts of parliament or of borrowes; and the deprivation of the saids factors for any wrong don be them to any merchant shall belong to the saids conventions of borrowes, bot if they shall infring any of his Majesties lawes or faill in any pairt or poynt of dewty to the King or kingdome then the said Mr Andrew Kennedy may in that caice deprive them be ther oune authority. EDINBURGH. 12 July 1690. Instructions to conservator.

(7) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy shall see that the liberties and priviledges of the nation at the staple port contained in the contract betuixt the borrowes and the toune of Campheir be keeped, and in speciall anent the consergerie house.

(8) Item, in all contraversies betuixt him and any merchant, sellar, or factor, he shall submit himself to the decision of the borrowes and shall not appeall therfrae nor declyn the same.

(9) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy being wairned either at the instance of the borrowes, generall or particular conventions, and ther procurator fiscall, or any other having warrand from the commissionars of borrowes (or toun of Edinburgh to suit them,) to answer to any complant given against him, shall compear be themselves and ther procurator and answer the same vpon the premonition of threescoir dayes either in generall or particular conventions.

(10) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy binds and obleidges himself to discharge his dewty in the said office, alse weell in administration of justice, either in civill or criminall courts, with speed and indifference in putting ther decreits and sentences to execution, as alsoe in ruling and governing themselves and the nation conforme to the acts of parliament and lawes of this realme, and alsoe the acts of borrowes, and whatsomever other things shall be statut by the borrowes for the good of trade and honor of the nation they shall caus the same be obeyed efter lawfull intimation made therfor to him or his deputs.

(11) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy shall assist and concur be ther authority with the minister in seing the ordor of the church ther keeped alse weell in the doctrine and discipline, conforme to the lawes of this realme, and that he shall be imediatly subject to the presbitry of

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1690.

Edinburgh, and not to joyn himself with the classes in Holland, and to sie any collections appoynted to be vplifted be the borrowes be taken cair of for the use they are collected for.

Instructions to conservator.

(12) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy, as conservator, binds and obleidges him to exact and vplift noe higher nor greater dewes of merchand goods then according to ane table made be the borrowes at this present convention.

(13) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy is heirby bound and obleidged to the sanen articles and conditiones to the borrowes of this realme unto which any conservator wes bound and obleidged, except in soe far as the samen is innovat or altered by thir presents.

(14) Item, the said Mr Andrew Kennedy shall not during the tyme of his office purchase or procure any thing prejudiciall to the liberties of the borrowes, nor suit, obtane, or crave any farder impost vpon merchand goods or ships then is granted by the forsaid table or heirefter shall be granted be the borrowes of this realme.

Conservator, transport.

19. Ordained the agent to pay to the conservator £50 sterling "in order to his transportation" to the staple port.

Conservator, persons pursuing.

20. Ordained that if any person shall pursue the conservator, or he pursue any person, before any convention of burghs, without good ground, the party condemned shall be obliged to refund the damages, charges, and expenses to the party acquitted from the pursuit.

Tayn and Kilrennie.

21. Appointed "the mean and poor condition" of the burghs of Tayn and Kilrennie to be taken to consideration by the next generall convention.

Statut discharging friemen to buy from wnfriemen.

22. The conventione, vpon certane important considerations moving them, and for the better executione of the lait act of parliament in favores of the royall borrowes,[1] enacts and ordanes in all tyme coming

[1] By Act of Parliament, Gul. et Mar., 14 June 1690, c. 15, it was ordained "that the importing of all forrain commodities and merchandise either by sea or land, doth and shall belong to the freemen inhabitants of ther Majesties royall burrowes allennerly, excepting cattell, horses, sheep and other bestiall, and likewise excepting such commodities as noblemen and barons shall import for their own use;" also "that the exporting by sea of all the native commodities of this kingdome doth and shall belong to the freemen inhabitants of the royall burrows, only excepting corns, cattell, horses, sheep, mettalls, mineralls, coalls, salt, lime and stone, but prejudice to noblemen and barons to export as much of the other native product of the kingdome, whether staple commodities or others, as may answere to the value of the commodities which shall be imported by them for their own use as said is; as also but prejudice to all the leidges to transport by land out of this kingdome all the native commodities thereof, and in case any persons shall doe in the contrair of this present act they shall be punished according to the tenor of the acts of parliament made against unfree traders in all points. Declareing hereby that the inhabitants of burghs of regalities and baronies and others shall and may trade in buying and selling all native commodities,

that noe burges of any royall burgh shall buy from any wnfrieman any forraigne imported goods for retailling againe, except from such strangers whoe shall make first offer of ther goods to the magistrats and toun councill of any royall burgh in haill bulk, certifieing such friemen as shall contraveen this present act or any pairt therof shall be lyable to the borrowes in the fourth pairt of the vallow of the goods soe bought.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1690.

Statut discharging friemen to buy form wnfriemen.

14 July 1690.

23. The convention gives full power to the burghs of Edinburgh [and eleven others] to meet as a comitty at any tyme efter desolving of this present convention, and any fyve of them to be a quorum, to take to ther serious consideration the most effectuall means for the better execution of the lait act of parliament in favors of the royall borrowes, and to receive such rules and overtures from any of the royall borrowes theranent, and to make such acts and statuts necessar in order thervnto as may tend to the benefit and advantadge of the borrowes, as alsoe to appoint visitations throw the wholl royall borrowes of this kingdome for the exact tryall of each particular burgh, ther condition, trade and comon good, and to forme and give such instructions and rules to the particular visitors as the comitty shall think just, which rules and instructions the visitors most observe and report vpon oath to the nixt generall convention, and which visitors are to be nominat by the said comitty whoe are to appoynt and lay doun methods how ther charges shall be sustained in the saids visitations, and for that effect appoynts the said comitty to meet at Edinburgh the sextein day of July instant for the first dyet and therefter to adjourn themselves as they shall think fitt.

Comitty appointed, act of parliament, visitors of burghs.

24. Having considered the report of Sir James Ogilvie and Sir William Hamilton, advocates, commissioners for negotiating the burghs' affairs at London, with the approbation thereof by the particular convention in March last, the convention approved of their diligence, and, considering their over-expenditure, instructed the agent to pay equally between them £800 scots, the condition of the borrowes at present not being able to gratifie them any furder for their good services.

Sir James Ogilvie and Sir William Hamilton 800 lib.

and likewayes may retaill all forraigne commodities provydeing they buy these forraigne commodities from some of the freemen of the royall burroues bearing scott and lott therein and noe otherwayes. And that notwithstanding of the 5th act of the 3d session, 2d parl. Cha. II. which is hereby restricted expresly and abrogated in soe far allennerly as it is inconsistent with this present act."

EDINBURGH. 14 July 1690.

Agentis accomptis.

25. Approved of the agent's account of disbursements from July 1689 to July 1690, extending to £6320, 5s. 8d. scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions.

15 July 1690.

Agent, gratuity.

26. The commissioners allowed to John Buchan, their agent, a gratuity of £800 Scots for services here and at London.

Papers relating to 50 solz per tun.

27. The clerk produced the whole principal papers relating to the fifty solz per ton, which were ordered by act of privy council to be delivered up to the burghs, and the convention instructed the agent to pay to him £20 sterling "in consideration of the pains taken by him in finding out the saids Frensh papers when he had the trust of keeping the publict records of the kingdome."

Servants gratuities and fees.

28. Appointed the agent to pay certain gratuities and fees to the servants.

Inverary, Anstruther Wester.

29. Appointed the burgh of Inverary to pay 4s. scots of the stent roll, and Anstruther Wester to be eased of that sum.

Protestation, Aberdeen, conservatoris dues.

30. Follows the protestation given in be Alexander Gordoun, commissioner fo rthe burgh of Aberdeen, for himself and in name and behalf of the said toun, against the alteration of the table of the staple goods at Campheer, [referred to in the 15th act of this convention] :—

First. Becaus the said table hes continowed for the space of ane hundred and fourty years and upwards, and the samen being appoynted by our predicessors whoe should not bot know the condition of the staple alse weell as wee doe, and it wer hard now to alter the samen efter soe long a tract of years.

Secundly. Wheras now it is pretendit that the conservators dewes be vplifted be the vallow and not be the bulk, this extraordinar method is not only wnjust for the reasons forsaid, but alsoe becaus the conservator is at alse much pains to attend and doe justice to a skipper whoe brings a loadning of coalls as to him who brings a loadning of plaiding or any other staple comodities to the said port, and is alse much obleidged to doe all incumbent dewties and personall attendance either at the said staple port or any other toun or sea port of the haill seventeen provinces.

Thridly. I the said Alexander Gordoun, commissionar for the burgh of Aberdeen, for myself and in name and behalf of the said burgh, protests that what ever dewes belonging to the conservator be allowed to this present conservator the samen shall be in satisfaction of all cellaries allowed to him, otherwayes it will be presumed that he will nether attend nor be soe exact be himself or his deputs in vplifting and exacting his dewes as other conservators hes been, when he may recur vpon the borrowes for his cellary of three hundred pounds sterling yearly established vpon him by this present convention, especially seing he hes ane other setled cellary from the toun of Campheir.

Fourthly. It is humblie conceaved and represented that the royall burgh of

Aberdeen, nor noe other burgh within this kingdome whoe exports staple commodities, can be lyable either to this new cellary of three hundred pound sterling granted to the present conservator or to the new imposition conforme to the vallow and not vpon the sack as wes formerly in vse, becaus the said votis [were] caried by plurality of dry burghs whoe hes noe export of staple goods, and consequently payes noe pairt nor portion of the conservators cellary, bot the samen is altogither a burden vpon such burgh as exports. EDINBURGH. 15 July 1690. Protestation, Aberdeen, conservatoris dues.

31. The same day it being represented to the convention by the lord provost of Edinburgh that the good toune had vsed great pains and been at considerable expenss in procuring the extracts of the Scots priviledges in France in relation to the royall borrowes trade to and from that kingdome, and had not only obtained extracts therof bot lykwayes by ane ordor from the secreit councill had procured vp the principall charters and priviledges granted by the kings of France to this nation to be keeped for the vse of the royall borrowes, and accordingly produced befor the convention the said principalls, and craved that since they wer concerned in the trade of this kingdome, and that it wes most wnreasonable that the good toune should be put to the wholl charge of extracting the same and obtaining vp the principalls, that therfor the convention might ordor ther agent to repay the toun what charges they had depursed vpon that accompt with a deduction of the good touns proportion, the convention appoynts the same to be ane heid of the nixt missive to be considered by the generall convention in July 1691. Anent the Frensh papers.

32. Dissolved this meeting, and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1691. Dissolving convention.

12 July 1690.

FOLLOWES the Alteration of the TAXT ROLL, appoynted by the Convention to stand as a rule in tyme coming during ther pleasure. Tax roll, 12th July 1690.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Edinburgh . .	33	6	8	St Andrews .	0	18	8
Perth . .	3	17	0	Glasgow . .	15	0	0
Dundie . .	5	6	8	Air . .	1	14	8
Aberdeen . .	6	10	0	Haddingtoun .	1	12	0
Stirling . .	1	16	0	Dysart . .	0	10	0
Linlithgow . .	1	10	0	Kirkcaldie . .	2	11	4

EDINBURGH. Tax roll, 12 July 1690.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Montross	2	8	0	Bamff	0	8	0
Couper	1	0	0	Whythorn	0	2	0
Anstruther Eister	0	4	0	Forfar	0	7	0
Dumfreis	1	18	4	Rothesay	0	7	0
Inverness	1	16	0	Nairn	0	3	0
Bruntisland	0	16	0	Forres	0	6	0
Innerkeithing	0	8	0	Rutherglen	0	3	0
Kinghorn	0	9	0	Northberwick	0	1	0
Brichen	0	11	0	Cullen	0	2	0
Irving	0	18	0	Lawder	0	6	0
Jedburgh	0	18	0	Kilrennie	0	2	0
Kirkcudbright	0	16	0	Annan	0	2	0
Wigtoun	0	8	0	Lochmaben	0	3	0
Pittinweem	0	7	0	Sancquhar	0	1	0
Dumfermling	0	17	0	Galloway	0	1	0
Anstruther Wester	0	1	0	Dingwall	0	2	0
Selkirk	0	13	4	Dornoch	0	3	0
Dumbartoun	0	10	0	Quensferrie	0	10	0
Rhenfrew	0	8	0	Forterose	0	5	0
Dunbar	0	12	0	Cromerty	0	5	0
Lanerk	0	12	0	Kintoir	0	2	0
Aberbrothock	0	10	0	Innerarie	0	4	0
Elgin	1	7	0	Inverurie	0	3	0
Peibles	0	12	0	Week	0	3	4
Carraill	0	8	0	Kirkwall	0	13	0
Tayn	0	7	0	Innerbervie	0	1	0
Culross	0	5	0	Stranraer	0	2	0

Summa totalis is 100 li. Scots.

EDINBURGH. 19 November 1690.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *appointed by the 23d act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, James Maklurg, dean of gild; Perth, George Oliphant; Aberdeen, Alexander Wacker, bailly; Air, John Moor; Irving, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Quensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Dundie, Glasgow, Kirkcaldie, Inverness and Cullen (*absent*).

19 November 1690.

Preses. 1. Sir John Hall, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

EDINBURGH. 19 November 1690.

2. The comittie appoynts ane letter to be sent to the burghs of regality and barrony of this kingdome in relation to ane accomodation of the matter of trade betuixt the royall borrowes and the saids burghs of regality and barronies, as alsoe ane other letter to be sent to the Duke of Hamilton and other supperiors of the burghs of barronies and regalities, and lykwayes ane third letter to be sent to the royall borrowes requyring them to dispatch with exact care and dilligence the letters direct to the burghs of barronie and regality within their presincts, and to direct such letters as wants directions, and to give ane full accompt of the trade of these burghs of barrony and regality, that the comitty may know in what termes to treat with them, and recomends to Mr James Smollet, provost of Dumbartoun, to draw the drawght of the saids letters against the nixt meetting.

Burghs of regality and barony.

21 November 1690.

3. Mr James Smollet, provost of Dumbartoun, presented to the comitty ane drawght of ane letter to be sent by the comitty to the burghs of barrony and regality, wherof the tenor followes :—Sir. The royall borrowes, at ther last generall convention in July, did nominat a comittie for putting to execution the lait act of parliament restoring ther priviledges, and accordingly the comittie hes mett in this place, and albeit many pregnant and convincing arguments wer offered for a speedy execution against the burghs of barrony and regality, yet such is our tendernes towards yow as being our nighboures and countreymen that I am allowed, befor any legall dilligence be vsed, to give yow advertisement that in caice your burgh of barrony will, by your representative, attend the comittie heir the [*blank*] of [*blank*] nixt to come, and make such satisfieing proposalls as may inclyn the comittie to ane acceptance, yow shall be fully heard as to your communication of trade with the royall borrowes. Meantyme ye will be pleased to keep the dyet preceisly and doe both yourselves and us the justice to believe that this method proceids only from our aversion to take legall courses against yow if they can be prevented by friendly accomodation. This is signified to yow in name and at the desyre of the comitty by, Sir, your humble servant, (*sic subscribitur;*) JOHN HALL, P.

Burghs of barony and regality.

4. Followes the second letter, direct to the Duke of Hamiltoun.

Letter to Duke of Hamiltoun.

EDINBURGH. 21 November 1690.

Letter to Duke of Hamiltoun.

May it pleas your Grace. The royall borrowes did at ther last generall meeting appoynt a comitty for putting in execution the lait act of parliament restoring ther priviledges, and accordingly they have mett in ordor thereto, bot the comitty considering that your grace hes considerable interest in the matter they have thought it ther dewty first to acquent your grace that if these burghs wherin your grace is concerned will make any reasonable proposalls that may prevent legall execution the comittie will readily imbrace them, and have written them to this purpose; and as your grace may be very confident that nothing les then indispensible necessity will obleidge the royall borrowes to be in opposition to any of your concerns, soe they are very confident your grace will dispose these of your interest to doe what is reasonable for ther oune advantadge and our exoneration. This, at the desyre and in name of the comitty, is signified to your grace by, may it pleas your grace, your graces most humble and obedient servant, (*sic subscribitur:*) JOHN HALL, P.

Letter to royall borroues.

5. Followes the third letter, to be sent to the royall borrowes. Right honorable. Yow may remember that the royall borrowes at ther last generall convention in July did nominat a comittie of ther number to consider what might be the best way for effectuall execution of the lait act of parliament maid in our favours, and the comittie having mett heer wee have thought it convenient for taking of all clamour that efterwards may be raised, and to leave the burghs of barrony, regality and others, altogither inexcusable, to wryt letters to each of them to sie if, without any legall hearing, wee can bring the matter to ane accomodation, and for that end wee have transmitted the inclosed to yow which ye are to caus carefully delyver; and least any of these burghs or others should be omitted whose designations wee know not, ther are some letters left to your direction on the back, and therfor the comitie does expect and requyre yow that ther letters be carefullie sent and lykwayes that yow transmit to us ther answers with the best information yow can have of the trade and handling of every particular burgh of barrony within your bounds, that incaice the busines betuixt them and us can be taken vp in a freindly way wee may know what demands to make towards them; and in caice ther be not soe many letters inclosed as will disperse throw the haill burghs of barrony and regality within your bounds ye are by this impowred to wryt letters from your selves to the same purpose mentioned

in our letter. Your dilligence and care in these particulars is desyred as ye wish weell to your selfes and the rest of the royall borrowes and wheranent ane accompt will be taken at our nixt meetting. This is signified to yow in name and at appoyntment of the comitty by, right honorable, your very loving friend and servant, (*sic subscribitur*:) JOHN HALL, P. EDINBURGH. 21 November 1690. Letter to royall borroues.

Which letters being publictly red and considered be the said comitty they approved therof, and appoynts Sir John Hall ther preses to signe the saids letters in behalf of the comitty and to dispatch them accordingly.

24 November 1690.

6. The committee appointed the diets of the letters to the burghs of barony and regality to be filled up as follows:—To those on the south side of Forth, the second Tuesday of March next; to those on this side of Spay, the third Tuesday of March; and to those beyond the Spay, the fourth Tuesday of March. Dyets of letters.

7. The committee remitted to five burghs to draw up particular instructions to the commissioners who were to be appointed to visit the several burghs. Instructions for visiting burghs.

26 November 1690.

8. The following instructions appoynted for the visitors of the royall borrous being publictly red in presence of the comitty they doe approve therof:— Instructions for the visitors approven.

(1.) Imprimis, that the visitors take ane exact accompt to be given in be the magistrats and toun clerk of euery particular burgh of ther comon good and debts vpon oath, and the magistrats and toune clerk to subscryve the same.

(2.) Item, that the magistrats and toun clerk produce ane exact accompt vpon the termes forsaid of all the mortifications belonging to the toun councill or gildrie or trades therof.

(3.) Item, that they produce to the saids visitors the thesaurers accompts and equies fyve or more years backward vpon the termes forsaid.

(4.) Item, in all burghs that they take exact tryall into ther trade, both forraigne and inland, and particularly of the wynes and of the vent and consumption of malt for fyve years backward.

EDINBURGH. 26 November 1690.

Instructions for the visitors approven.

(5.) Item, that they take exact accompt of what ships, barks, boats, and ferrie boats they have belonging to them, the names of the saids ships, ther burden and vallow of each of them, and how imployed and by whom.

(6.) Item, that they alsoe take ane accompt of what ships they are owners of or pairtners in, out of ther owne burghs alse weell as in the same, and this to be given accompt of conforme to ther oath of knouledge, and how far they are concerned with the burghs of barrony and regality in the matter of trad.

(7.) Item, that they take particular notice how ther cess are payed, whither out of ther comon good or by taxations vpon the burgh.

(8.) Item, to take ane exact accompt of ther ministers stipends, schoollmasters, precentors, and all vther publict servants, what it is and how payed, whither out of any mortification or out of the touns common good or by taxation vpon the people or teinds of the paroch.

(9.) Item, to take exact notice how ther publict works are maintained and out of what fond, such as churches, hospitalls, bridges, harbouris, wells, and the lyke.

(10.) Item, they are to take exact inspection of the caice of the houses of the toune and how they are inhabited and what rents they may be of and of what rait houses inhabited by strangers are.

(11.) Item, to take ane exact accompt how many faires and publict mercats each burgh hes yearly and of how long indurance, and what the intrinsick vallow or importance the same may be of.

(12.) Item, that the visitors for ther better accomodation and preventing of unnecessary trouble shall haue it in ther option to call for such of the smaller borrows as they shall think fitt and requyre them to repair to the visitors and bring with them ther theasurers compt books and any other evidences or information anent ther trade handling and condition, and which smaller borrowes are to attend the visitors at what place they shall appoynt for that effect.

(13.) Item, that the visitors to be appoynted as they are to have commission from the comitty to the effect abovementioned soe to have ane extract of the act of the last generall convention impouring them for the end aforsaid and this commission to be signed by the preses of the meetting and the clerk of the royall borrowes.

(14.) Lastly, that the visitors take ane exact accompt and tryall of

every thing els that occurs to them relating to the condition of the respective burghs whom they shall visit. EDINBURGH. 26 November 1690.

Instructions for the visitor approven.

Thir Instructions are delyvered by the comitty abovenamed to John Moor, provost of Air, and maister James Smollet, provost of Dumbartoun, and George Oliphant, provost of Perth, and Alexander Walker, bailly of Aberdeen, apoynted visitors for the burghs benorth Forth and the burghs besouth Forth; and the comitty does heirby requyre from the respective royall borrowes abovementioned a chearfull and readie concurrance with the said visitors and ane exact obedience to the instructions and rules abovementioned; and if any of the said severall borroues shall fail (as is not expected) to give the forsaid concurrance and obedience as they will be esteemed unfaithfull to the estate of the royall borrowes soe they will be considered as places of singular repair and traffique and according represented to the nixt generall convention at the making vp of the taxt roll. This with the forsaid instructions is transmitted to yow in name and at the desyre of the forsaid comitty by, (*sic subscribitur:*) JOHN HALL, P.

2 December 1690.

Act nominating the particular visitors

9. The comitty appoynts that the burghs besouth Forth shall repair and visite the burghs benorth Forth, and the burghs benorth Forth shall repair and visit the burghs besouth Forth, and for that effect the comitty nominats and appoynts the commissionars that are to visit the burghs benorth Forth to be John Moor, provost of Air, and Mr James Smollet, provost of Dumbartoun; and the commissionars to visit the burghs besouth Forth to be George Oliphant, provost of Perth, and Alexander Wacker, bailly of Aberdeen; and all the saids four persons to visit the burgh of Edinburgh.

Charges of visitors.

10. The committee appointed the agent to advance to the commissioners appointed to visit the particular burghs the sum of £2400 Scotts, "to be equally divydit, the one half to the commissioners benorth Forth and the other half to the commissioners besouth Forth, and recommends to the saids commissionars the frugall manadgement of the said soume."

4 December 1690.

Clerk's servants.

11. Appointed the agent to pay to the clerk's servants £5 sterling for writing the letters to the burghs of barony and regality, being upwards of two hundred, and the letters to the royal burghs.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1691.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Maklurg, dean of gild, and George Stirling, chirurgion; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Alexander Walker; Stirling, John Dick; Linlithgow, Walter Stewart; Glasgow, John Anderson; Air, John Moor; Haddingtoun, Maister John Sleich; Dysart, Alexander Swyn; Kirkcaldie, James Thomson; Montross, Robert Arthbuthnot; Couper, Joseph Knox; Anstruther Eister, Alexander Stevinson; Dumfreis, John Irving; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, Alexander Ged; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spittall of Lewquhat; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Brichen, James Coway; Irving, Maister Alexander Cuningham; Jedburgh, Thomas Porteous; Kirkcudbright, John Ewart; Wigtoun, William Coltran; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, John Chalmer; Anstruther Wester, maister Robert Cleilland; Selkirk, James Mitchell; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Rhenfrew, Robert Hall; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, James Weir; Aberbrothock, William Auchterlony; Peibles, Archbald Sheill; Carraill, George Moncreif; Tayn, William Ross; Culross, Maister William Erskin; Bamff, George Leith; Whythorn, Adame Dunlop; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rutherglen, John Whitherspoon; Northberwick, James Stewart; Lawder, David Maitland; Kilrennie, Thomas Peacock; Sancquhar, Maister John Boswell; Quensferry, Sir William Hamilton; Stanraer, John Vance; [Eighteen burghs *absent.*]

7 July 1691.

Preses.

1. Archbald Mure, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Comitty, commissions.

2. Committee appointed to peruse the commissions.

Commissions approven.

3. The convention having heard the report of the comitty appoynted for revising of the comissions they approve of the same, except the comission from Couper and Whythorn which wants the sealls of these burghs having only the subscription of the clerk, and finding that its a mear omission and neglect they ordane these burghs to rectifie the same in tyme coming, and allowes the saids two commissioners to sitt in this convention; and as to the commission from the burgh of Tayn, which wants the qualifications requyred by the platforme, yet inregaird that he is a residenter in the said burgh that they allow him to sitt in this convention; and as to the commission from the burgh of Kirkcaldie, which is only from the comunity and not from the magistrats and councill of the burgh, wherof they are destitut at present, they lykwayes dispens with the said commissioners sitting in the convention; and inregaird ther are

severall commissioners to this present convention whoe are not merchants residentor within the burghs they represent, yet the convention, for severall and important reasons tending to the good of the estait of the royall borroues, they dispens with ther sitting and votting at ther present convention. EDINBURGH. 7 July 1691. Commissions approven.

4. The wholl commissioners of the convention did take the oath of alleidgance and subscryved the assurance. Oath of alleidgence.

5. The convention inacts and ordanes that in all tyme coming that for the mor ordorly dispatch of affaires at all conventiones in tyme coming, and for shuning of confusion, that every commissioner who hes any affair to represent to the borroues concerning ther burgh or otherwayes, that they represent the same to the convention by writt and not verbally. Representations to be in writ.

8 July 1691.

6. Ordained the agent to assist George Makculloch, merchant in Stirling, "anent a seizur of severall packs of goats skins being going from one port of the kingdom to another which he conceaved wes a great injurie not only to him bot lykwayes to the freemen merchantis of this kingdome." Seizur of skins.

7. Referring to the seventh act of last general convention the commissioners ordained that the quorum of a particular convention "which usually consists of twenty-five burghs" should be thirteen burghs. Quorum of particular conventions.

9 July 1691.

8. The convention taking to ther serious consideration that ther are many complaints given in to the respective generall conventions of borrowes thir severall years by past by many particular burghs, yea vniversally by the wholl royall borrowes, complaining of ther poverty, want, and decay of trade and that they are not rightly adjusted in the taxt roll as to the quota and proportion of burden, and considering that ther hes been severall remedies proposed yet non hes been received with that vniversall satisfaction as a generall search and inquirie to be made into the condition and state of every burgh as to ther trade and comon good by a visitation to be made over the wholl royall borrowes, which although not practised formerly yet its thought to be the most just and equall way how to adjust the taxt roll if impartiallie gon about, therfore the convention ordaines every particular royall burgh within the kingdome to be visited as to ther trade and common good conforme to the instructions heirwnto subjoyned, Visitation of burghs.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1691.

Visitation of burghs.

and for that effect appoynts and nominats four visitors, viz., James Fletcher, commissionar for the burgh of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, commissioner for the burgh of Aberdeen, John Moor, commissioner for the burgh of Air, and Maister James Smollet, commissioner for the burgh of Dumbartoun; and that the commissioners for the burghs of Dundie and Aberdeen shall visit the south royall burghs of this kingdome, and the saids commissioners for the burghs of Air and Dumbartoun to visite the north royall burghs of the said kingdome, and that according to the divisions to be made in ther respective circouts as the saids commissioners can best agree amongst themselves; and ordanes the saids commissioners to begin ther journeys in ther respective circouts and divisions betuixt and the (*blank*) day of (*blank*); excepting alwayes furth of this visitation the burgh of Kirkwall in Orknay, Week in Caithnes, and Innerarie in Arguyllshyre and Rothesay in Boot, becaus of the difficulty of acces to these places. And the convention considering that the charges and expenss of the said visitations ought in justice and equitie be made vpon the comon charges of the borrowes and that the samen ought to be such as is suitable for the borrowes to grant and the commissioners to receave, therfor they ordane the agent to pay to the saids four commissioners the soume of two hundred pound sterling, declaring that if ther saids commissioners shall happen to be superexpended in mor then the said two hundred pound sterling that the burghs will reimburse them of the samen vpon ther ovne simple declaration and word of honor.

The following instructions appoynted for the visitors of the royall borrowes being publictly red in presence of the convention they doe approve threof.

(1) [Same as art 1 of Instructions, *antea* p. 125].

(2) Item, that the magistrats and toune clerk produce ane exact accompt vpon the termes forsaid of all the mortifications belonging to the toune councill, or gildrie, or trads therof, and that the saids visitors are to consider the mortifications in swa far only as they are imployed to ease the burghs of publict burdens and taxes layed vpon the same.

(3) Item, the visitors appoynted for the south royall burghs of this kingdome that in their circout they call for the measurs keept by Jedburgh to sie if they be conforme to the standart.

(4) Item, the visitors of the royall borrowes to take inquiry that

when they come to the burghs of Stirling, Linlithgow, Haddingtoun, Banff and (*blank*) burghs whither the burgesses of these burghs lyes under an absolute necessity of loadning and vnloadning at vnfrie burghs to the effect that if it appear that if they lye vnder ane impossibility to load and vnload at vnfree ports that then they may have a particular dispensation to load and vnload at unfree ports. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1691. Visitation of burghs.

(5 to 13) [Same as arts. 3 to 11 of Instructions, *antea* pp. 125-6].

(14) Item, that the visitors of the royall borroues in ther circut of visitatione take information from the magistrats of the royall burghs of the state and condition of the regalities, barronies, and other vnfree burghs within ther respective precincts, as to the trade, comon good, and condition of the houses and inhabitants of these vnfrie burghs, and that the said information be given in be the saids magistrats to the visitors during the tyme they stay within ther burghs.

(15) [Same as art. 14 of Instructions, *antea* p. 127].

Thir instructions are delyvered by the convention to James Fletcher, provost for Dundie, Alexander Walker, commissioner for Aberdeen, John Moor, comissionar for Air, and Maister James Smollet, comissioner for Dumbartoun, appoynted visitors for the burghs benorth Forth and the burghs besouth Forth; and the convention does heirby requyre from the respective royall borrowes abovementioned a chearfull and reddie concurrence with the saids visitors and ane exact obedience to the instructions and rules abovementioned, and if any of the said severall borrowes shall faill (as is not expected) to give the forsaid concurrance and obedience as they will be esteemed vnfaithfull to the estait of the royall borrowes soe they will be considered as places of singular repair and traffique and according represented to the next generall convention at the making vp of the taxt roll. This with the forsaid instructions is transmitted to yow, in name and at the desyre of the forsaid convention, by their preses.

10 July 1691.

9. The convention, vpon a representation made be the burgh of Jedburgh, they recomend to the preses to wryt a letter to the shirreff of Roxburgh desyring in name of the borrowes that the visitors of the said burgh of Jedburgh may have inspection to the weights and measurs vsed by the inhabitants of the toun of Hawick, and lykwayes the convention Jedburgh, Hawick.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

Jedburgh Hawick.

declars that if heirefter it shall be found that the burgh of Jedburgh is prejudged and wronged by the inhabitants of the said toun of Hawick in the matter of the measurs and weights that they will espous the interest of the said burgh vpon the comon charges of the borrows.

Dumbarton comon milne.

10. Granted warrant to the burgh of Dumbarton to set their common mill on tack for nineteen years, "provyding alwayes that the samen be done be way of publict roup and having the consent of the deacons of crafts and most substantiall burgesses of the said burgh and not vnder the former tack dewty."

Burghs, missive dewes.

11. Instructed the agent to take immediate proceidings against the burghs in arrear for recovery of their missive dues, "to the effect these burghs whoe makes payment of ther missive dewes may noe longer run the hazard and be lyable for the deficiencie of the burghs that becomes insolvent."

Maintaining souldiers.

12. The convention considering the great prejudice many of the royall burghs of this kingdome hes sustained by mantaining souldiers vpon ther oune expenses, being induced therto as beleiving they wer to haue retention in ther owne hand of what they wer dew to the publict in soe far as they had advanced to the souldiers, and that ther is acts of parliament ordaining the three moneths cess and the hearth money to be applyed for that vse which hes yet proven ineffectuall to the royall borrowes, therfor the convention does appoynt the commissioners for Edinburgh, Air, and Dumbartoun to consult Sir William Hamiltoun to draw a bill in name of the royall borrowes to the lords of privie councill or lords of the thesaurie for payment of what is dew to the royall borrowes vpon the accompt forsaid out of the saids fonds, and appoynt the agent to advance money for drawing of the said consultation.

Allowance to commissioners.

13. The convention considering that the visitation of the royall burghs wes vnder the view and prospect of the last generall convention, and for that effect they had impoured a comitty to name visitors, and that the said comitty had actually appoynted visitors, viz., the commissioners for Perth, Aberdein, Air, and Dumbartoun; and when they wer in readines and made preparation for their journey and had waited a considerable tyme in Edinburgh they wer disappoynted by the indisposition of the commissioner for Perth, wherthrow the saids commissioners of Aberdeen, Air, and Dumbartoun wer at a great lose by ther said attendance and preparation, the convention in consideration therof allowes to them twenty pound sterling which they ordane the agent presently to pay to the saids three commissioners.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

14. The convention vpon a representation made be the commissioner for the burgh of Glasgow, narrating that it is the great concern of the royall borrous to have ane interest in forraigne plantations, and that ther may be yet convenient plantations in Caralina or in ane Ile called (*blank*) lying near to the Ile of Neves, and in ane wholsome ile called (*blank*) within ane hundred myles near it wher salt is made naturally by the sun, therfor appoynts the said overtur to be ane head of the nixt missive, to the end the royall burghs may instruct ther respective commissioners to the nixt generall convention how far they think fitt to be concerned in the said project. Forraigne plantations.

15. The convention ordanes ilk commissioner of this present conventione to take the double of the instructions given to the visitors, to the end when the visitors comes alongest in ther circuat every burgh may be in readines to informe the saids visitors how all things in relation to the saids instructions. Instructions to the visitors.

16. The convention thinks it requisit, for the more effectuall inbringing of the missives dewes, that the agent in name of the borrowes petitione the nixt parliament that he may have the benefit of quartering vpon the royall burghs deficient of ther proportions of the missive dewes. Quartering on borrowes deficient in missive dewes.

17. [Referring to the laws and acts of parliament and burghs against burgesses of free burghs packing and peeling with unfreemen or being partners with them in trade or shipping and prohibiting burgesses to load or unload boats at ports not belonging to free burghs,] all which acts hes not as yet been put to dew and effectuall execution, and the convention being resolved noe longer to suffer the priviledges of royall burghs to be abused and incroached vpon by ther ovne burgesses, whoe by joyning stocks with vnfreemen inhabitants in the burghs of regalities and barronies and other vnfree places, both in poynt of trade and shipping, wherby these vnfriemen receave all imaginable incouradgement from freemen in royall burghs to trade, and that the saids freemen does voluntarly and with ther oune hands destroy the priviledges of the royall burghs, therfor the convention does by thir presents not only renew and revive in generall all former acts of convention of borrowes, of whatsomever daits, tenor, or contents the samen be of, which any way relaits to the premises (except in swa far as is innovat by this present act) bot lykwayes inacts and ordaynes in all tyme coming that non of the burgesses of free royall burghs shall be pairtiners with vnfriemen, inhabitants in regalities, barronies, or Act anent friemen tradding with unfreemen.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

Act anent friemen tradding with unfriemen.

other vnfrie places, either in poynt of trade and merchandizing or in the matter of shipping, vnder the paine of fyve hundred merks to be payed by ilk burges and friemen of royall burghs as oft as he shall be found guilty by the respective dean of gild, or by the magistrats wher ther is no dean of gild, the one half of the said fyne to belong to the said dean of gild or magistrat for ther oune use and the other half to be payed to the agent for the vse of the royall borrowes. [The commissioners were appointed to produce to the general convention, yearly, a list of the burghs in which the fines were imposed.] And siclyk, the convention prohibits and discharges the burgesses of royall burghs to load or vnload ther ships and veshells at any other port then these belonging to free royall burghs, except as to these goods which vnfrie tradders may export by law, and these burghs that wants free ports to load and vnload at the nixt free port adjacent to them, vnder the penalty of (*blank*) swa oft as they transgress; and further the convention, for severall weighty and pungent considerations moving them, does in all tyme coming strickly prohibit and discharge the burgesses of free royall burghs to fraught and hyre any ships or veshells belonging to the inhabitants of regalities, barronies, or other vnfree places within the kingdome, either for export or import, vnder the penalty of fyve hundred merks, the one half to the discoverer and the other half to the agent for the vse of the borroues. And lastly, the convention considering that it will take some tyme for freemen burgesses to dissolve the copairtneries that are betuixt them and vnfreemen and to withdraw ther stocks they have with them in trade and shipping, and to provyd shipping for themselves wherin noe person shall have interest bot burgesses residenters within royall burghs, therfor they allow ther said freemen burgesses vntill the first of March nixt to doe the same, efter which tyme the convention requyres punctuall and exact obedience and observance to this present act vnder the certifications abvementioned, and ordanes thir presents to be printed and published at the mercat croces of the wholl royall burghs, that non pretend ignorance.

Act in favor of relict of Sir Magnus Prince and children.

18. Anent the humble representation given in to the convention be Dame Issobell Gourley, relict of Sir Magnus Prince, and her children, mentioning that the generall convention of borrowes in July j^{m} vj^{c} and eighty eight did commissionat Sir Magnus Prince, then lord provost of

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

Act in favor of relict of Sir Magnus Prince and children.

Edinburgh, to goe to court in relation to ther affaries and for redressing of severall things which were at that tyme burdensome to them, and for his encouradgment knowing that he wald be at a considerable expens they gave him full credit and appoynted the agent to pay such bills as Sir Magnus should draw vpon him, Sir Magnus having taken vp at London three hundred pound sterling and received twa hundred pound sterling mor efter his returne ther wes ane act of the generall convention of borrowes made in July j^{m} vj^{c} and eighty nyn, wherby for the reasons therin mentioned they appoynted him only three hundred and twenty three pound sterling in satisfaction of all he could claim for any expens he had bein at or gratification he could expect vpon the accompt of that commission, and they ordored him to be persewed for repayment of two thousand and seven hundred pounds Scots which he had received beyond that last appoyntment; and as to which it wes humbly represented to the convention, primo, that Sir Magnus Prince wes sent to court at a tyme of great solemnity when those whoe had any publict character wer obleidged to be at mor then ordinary expenss; secundo, the judge of the admirality did at that tyme force merchants to take passes which wes a burden of mor then three hundred pound sterling yearly to the nation wherof he procured ane exemption; tertio, it wes a great grievance to the royall borrowes that burghs of regality and barronie had more ample priviledges then wer allowed by law, and he obtained that noe signatur should pas erecting burghs of barronie or regality with the priviledges belonging to the royall borrowes; quarto, he gave a very good accompt of his endeavors to remove the Frensh imposition of fyfty solz vpon the tun and that ther might be ane union of trade betuixt Scotland and Ingland; quinto, he got ane assurance that ther should not be a conservator named in place of Sir James Kennedy, then deceist, vntill the royall borrowes gave ther oppinion and prescryved rules for regulating of that office which wes thought a grievance to the merchants, and that the extraordinary imposition which had bein granted to Sir James Kennedy during his lyfe should not be afterward renewed; sexto, he obtained that noe royall borrowes should be obleidged to receave prisoners vnles the person whoe offered them should give security for ther mentinance during the tyme of ther confynment, and that they should be noe charges to the said incorporatione. Which particulars

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

Act in favor of relict of Sir Magnus Prince and children.

being in themselves soe considerable, and which the royall borrowes wold have purchased at a rate three tymes above eight hundred pound sterling, and therfor humbly craued and expected from the honorable meeting that they wold discharge the agent to persew for the two thousand and seven hundred pounds Scots and appoynt the three hundred pound which wes yet wanting of the eight hundred pound to be payed to the petitioner for herself and as tutrix to her children, especially considering that her husband wes knowen to have acted faithfully and effectually in that trust and that he wes a person of soe great ingenuity and candour that he never took ane indirect way to enrich either himself or his familie; as the representation bears. Which, togither with the present circumstance of Sir Magnus Princes family whoe deserves ther favors, being considered be the convention, therfor they appoynt Maister John Buchan, ther agent, to stop any farder proces for recoverie of the said soume of two thousand and seven hundred pounds and impowers him to discharge any such action of repetition, the representatives of the said Sir Magnus Prince discharging the royall borrowes for any pretence they can have for the other three hundred pound sterling acclamed by the said representatione.

Impowring Glasgow to sell lands of Provan.

19. Anent the supplication given in be John Anderson, provost of Glasgow, in name and behalf of that burgh, mentioning that wher the toune of Glasgow having of a considerable tyme bygane flowrished in its trade and inhabitants and payed a large share of the publict burdens dew and payable by the state of borrowes, trew it is that of late the said burgh is become altogither incapable of subsistance inregaird of these heavie burdens that lye thervpon, occasioned by the vast soumes that have bein borrowed by the late magistrats and the misapplying and dilapidation of the touns patrimony in suffering ther debts to swell and imploying the comon stock for ther oune sinistruous ends and uses, wherin if the petitioner should be expres in the particular it wold exceidingly tend to the dishonor and disparadgement of these whose dewty it wes to have bein the patriots and supporters of the place, bot without any designe to reflect or expatiat vpon ther misdemanners the petitioner humbly represents that ther wes ane absolut and indispenssible necessity for the prasent magistrats to sell and dispose of a great pairt of ther patrimonie, especially the lands and barronie of Provan, towards the

defraying of ther most vrgent and pressing debts, and without doeing therof they cannot propose any personall security from the touns creditors, nor will ther be any persons found to represent the toune in the office of magistracie till they be secured from legall dilligence, which can only be done by disposing of ther patrimonie to a present sale; and therfor desyring the convention to interpose ther authority and grant warrand to the present magistrats and councill of Glasgow to sell and dispon ther saids lands of Provan, and such other lands or few dewties as belong to them, to be imployed for payment of the forsaids debts, as the supplication bears; which being considered be the convention they heirby interpose ther authority and grant warrand to the present magistrats and councill of Glasgow to sell and dispon ther saids lands of Provan to be imployed for payment of the debts owing be the said burgh of Glasgow.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

Impowring Glasgow to sell lands of Provan.

20. The convention taking to ther serious consideration the memoriall presented by the conservator, and, first, as to the extraordinar charge he wes at befor he went over to Holland, being obleidged to attend a considerable tyme at London towards the obtaining of credentialls from his Majesty and others mentioned in the said memoriall, and that his expenss and charges ought to be considered and allowance accordinglie given him; as alsoe, considering the condition represented by the conservator of the Scots affairs in relation to the observance of the staple, they in respect of the severall difficulties that offers at this tyme doe seriously remit to the prudence of the conservator to doe therin as he shall sie most just and expedient. The convention appoynts that pairt of the conservators memoriall in relation to the staple port to be recorded in ther books, wherof the tenor followes:— At Campheer thoe the magistrats on ther pairt professes all reddines to observe the conditions of the contract, yet on our pairt the conservator found the condition of the staple to be very ill and soe little observed as it ought to be, and as the conservator is particularly instructed and ordored by the royall borrowes it should be that it seems in a manner much to be deserted, the current of the trade having for severall years past run as it wer in a course to Rotterdam, for at Campheer at present ther is, primo, noe legall established factor (but one by way of expediencie) into whose hands tho nation may saifly consigne ther goods; secundo, noe Scots merchant;

Act concerning the staple.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

Act concerning the staple.

tertio, no minister; quarto, no consistacy; quinto, no congregation save two or three men, wherof only one is a Scotsman, and three or four women; sexto, noe consergery hous, which is most necessary for our nation, the Dutch innes ther being exorbitantly dear. Whence the conservator is much straitned what to doe as to punishing breakers of the staple according as the honorable convention haue obleidged the conservator, for if it wer bot one particular person or veshell wherby the staple wer broken it wer easie to rectifie it, but when the bulk of the wholl trade as said is runs to Rotterdam it is the mor difficult; and the rather becaus it is asserted that in tyme of war and danger they ought to have seasonable convoys to Campheer, which not coming in dew tyme they tak occasion to goe with the Rotterdam convoy, and having unloaded ther goods at Rotterdam and payed all customes and dewties for them ther they complain that they should be compelled to be at the expens of transporting ther goods (most of which are bulkish and weighty) from Rotterdam to Campheer, and the rather becaus most of the staple goods at Campheer are bought by people of Rotterdam and soe most be at a new charge in retransporting them thither; wherfor the conservator humbly craves that the convention wold seriously consider this caice that he may haue ther directions how to behaue himself heirin for the good of the trade of the kingdome, for which caus the conservator wes come expresly hither to attend the convention, for the dew and exact observing of the staple wold be as to his particular his great ease and advantage. And siclyk, the convention considering the years cellary payable to the conservator commencing from the first of Apryll j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty to the first of Apryll j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty one and his being necessarly detained in attending the royall borrowes till he wes admitted and receaved in his place, and being therefter interrupted in the speedy acces which he designed for Holland, being the tyme of war, wes forced to attend convoyes and it wes impossible for him to haue collected his dewes conforme to the table granted to him by the last generall convention from the tradding ships, nor could they in reason be obleidged to pay till they had the benefit of a conservator receiding vpon the place to exerce his office; lykeas the convention having considered the accompt of the conservators intromission, which he hes given vp vpon his word of honor and credit, [instructed the agent to pay him the difference between 954 gilders 5 stivers, being the

dues collected, and £300 sterling due by the act of the general convention in April 1690.] EDINBURGH. 10 July 1691.

20*a*. The conservator produced "ane catologue of books belonging to his office, quherof he hes the custodie, which the convention ordanes to be insert efter the convention is risen and subscryved be him;" and ordained the agent to pay the conservator £100 Scots for his charges in recovering the books. Conservator's books.

16 July 1691.

21. The convention, taking to ther consideration that by the 23rd act of the last generall convention [a committee was appointed to take means for carrying into execution the late act of parliament in favor of royal burghs,] and the said comitty having mett vpon the nyntein day of November last, did out of a good meaning and sincere intention to doe most acceptable services for the interest of the royall borrowes fall vpon this expedient that befor any furder procedor be made in executing the said act of parliament that a treaty for ane accomodation of trade with the regalities, barronies, and other vnfrie places, should be first offered to them to sie if they wold vndertake any considerable pairt of the burden lying vpon the royall borrowes, which wes the cheif and principall designe of the said comitty, and that accordingly letters wer written to them and to seuerall noble and honorable persons ther superiors, and that the said comitty had appoynted the saids vnfrie burghs to return ther answer, viz., those lying vpon the south syd of Forth against the second Twesday of March last, those on this syd of Spey vpon the third Twesday of the said moneth, and those beyond Spey vpon the fourth Twesday of the said moneth; and the said comitty having mett and attended at Edinburgh the whoil moneth of March last, during which tyme non compeired for the saids vnfrie burghs except Borrowstounnes, Falkirk, Greenock, and Elie, whoe refuised to condescend and liquidat what proportion of burden they wold vndertake for these burghs; and that those persons that compeired for the vnfrie burghs of Dunkell, Dun and Lesly, refuised altogither to vnderly any pairt of burden for ther trade, whervpon the comitty by ther act the first of Apryll last did declare that in regaird ther offer had bein slighted and vndervallowed, and that of all the great and vast number of vnfrie burghs within the kingdome none of them bot sex com- Royall borrows, communication of trade.

EDINBURGH. 16 July 1691.

Royall borrows, communication of trade.

peired, whereof fyve of them did extinuat ther trade and wold not liquidat ther offer, and that only Falkirk had offered three shilling Scots vpon the hundred pound, all which the comitty conceaved tended to a delay that the vnfrie burghs might have a years further trade, whervpon the comitty fand that the lenth the vnfrie burghs cam did nowayes answer the end and expectation of the royall borrowes, and therfor it wes ther opinion that every royall burgh should tak the best means they could for putting the act of parliament in execution against ther nixt adjacent burghs of regality and barrony; yet notwithstanding of the said comitties rationall and convincing procedor, and of ther finall resolution in the said affair, the present convention thought fitt to reassume the consideration of the said matter, to the end that vnfree burghs might have noe pretext or ground of clamour against the royall borrowes bot be rendered inexcusable in all tyme coming, they caused severall tymes publict intimation to be made at the dore of the councill house wher they satt by calling over a list of the vnfrie burghs to sie if any persons wold compear for them that the royall borrowes might enter into a comuning and treaty with them, bot of all the saids vnfrie burghs non compeired bot the laird of Greennock, younger, for the said burgh, and James Dawling and John Huntar, skippers, commissioners from Borroustounnes, and (*blank*) from Falkirk; and having called befor them the saids commissioners for Borroustounnes they wer demanded what proportion of burden they wold offer and how the said offer if agreed to should be secuired, they altogither refuised to condescend and liquid a certane soume of money or to secure that the samen should be payed to the royall borrowes; as lykwayes (*blank*), whoe pretendit to be commissioner for Falkirk, being interrogat if he had a commission from the said burgh to treat with the burghs denyed the same, and declared that he could offer nothing in name of the said burgh; and sicklyk, Sir John Schaw, younger of Greennock, compeired and offered for the said burgh to pay such a proportion of burden as efter valuation it ought to pay, and that he wold secure the payment therof bot by noe means wold condescend vpon a quota; all which being againe and againe considered and reconsidered by the convention they look vpon the offer made by Borroustounnes as noe wayes satisfactory, tending only to hold the royall borroues in suspence and in the dark and at ane vncertainty, that they may all the whyll use the trade of a royall burgh; and sicklyk

that the offer by Falkirk wes a meer sham and a ridicouling of the borrowes to send a person without any commission to treat; and as to the offer made by the laird of Greennock, albeit the same be mor ingenuous and poynted then the rest, yet in regaird he wold not liquidat his offer, and that the same wes bot a single unfrie burgh whoes proportion will doe litle to ease the wholl royall borrowes, and that it tends to destroy the interest of Glasgow, which is the second trading royall burgh of the kingdome, they cannot acquiesse to the said offer, being soe circumstantiat; and therfor the convention does vpon the wholl matter declare that as they give ther hearty thanks to the said comitty for comencing the forsaid treaty with vnfrie burghs as tending to the weell of the borrowes, soe lykwayes the convention does for the reasons and causes forsaid declare that the said treaty is now at a period and close, and doe heirby warrand, allow, and authorise the saids royall borrowes and every one of them to execut the acts of parliament in ther favores against the nixt adjacent burghs of regality, barronie, and other vnfrie places; but becaus of the singularity of Greennocks offer the royall borrowes doe recomend to the nearest adjacent royall burghs to Greenock to deall discreetly with the inhabitants of the said burgh in executing the said act of parliament vntill the nixt generall convention.

EDINBURGH. 16 July 1691.

Royall borrows, communication of trade.

17 July 1691.

22. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1690 to July 1691, extending to £4329, 8s. 9d., and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions.

Agents accompts.

23. Allowed the agent who "hes bein very faithfull and active in the burrowes affairs this last year" a gratuity of £500 Scots.

Agent, gratuity

24. The convention having heard the complants of many of the royall borrowes as being constantly vexed and grived by Ewan Makgrigor and the pairtners in the manufactory of old brod cards as having a gift therof, doe therfor impouer the agent to raise a suspension against them at the instance of the wholl royall borrows, and in caice he cannot obtaine the same that he assist the particular burgesses of the royall burghs whoe are troubled or herefter shall be troubled at ther instance, and that vpon the comon charges of the borrowes not exceiding ten pound sterling, and

Anent the brod cards.

EDINBURGH. 17 July 1691.

declar that if the parliament shall sitt befor the nixt generall convention that they will represent the said gift to the parliament as a havie grievance and burden vpon the royall borrowes.

Curing of herrings.

25. Recommended the respective burghs to put to execution the "many good and lawdable acts of parliament anent the curing of fish, especially of herring and salmond, and anent the goodness and sufficiency of barrells;" and the burghs to send their commissioners to next general convention sufficiently instructed with any overtures thereanent.

Minister to Campheer.

26. The conservator represented to the convention that at present ther is noe minister at Campheer, and that it is the interest of the royall burrowes to have that function supplied with some qualified person least if it be delayed the stipend allowed by the toun of Campheer, being nyn hundred gilders, may fall indeswetood and be applyed to some other vse, wherby the burden of the minister stipend will lye vpon the borrowes to provyd, and lykwayes represented that he had made some steps, with consent of the Scots congregation at Campheer, by inviting Mr Robert Fleming, younger, to be minister ther, which being considered by the convention they think fit the conservator ought to be incouradged to proceid furder in the said affair and to acquent the presbitry and magistrats of Edinburgh that ther consent may be had in giveing a call to him or any other fitt person to supplie that function.

Directions concerning factors.

27. The convention considering that ther are noe factors legally established at Campheer and that this tyme is a tyme of war, and least the merchants should suffer by having ther goods squandered when they come to the staple, ther being non to look efter them, the convention does therfor think fitt as a fitt expedient during this intervall to impouer the conservator, lykeas they be thir presents impouer and authorize him to treat with any able and qualified merchand receiding at the staple or Rotterdam, or any other pairt of the Low Countries, to accept to be factor, and to find sufficient caution for that effect, whoes names with ther cautioner the conservator is to acquent the provost of Edinburgh and the comitty vnderwitten to the effect they may approve of his dilligence and authorize them in ther offices, and for that end the convention grants power and comission to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Montross, Dundie, Glasgow, Anstruther Easter, Haddingtoun, Linlithgow, Dumbartoun and Quensferry, or any fyve of them, to meet as a comitty

efter the convention is risen to receave ane accompt of the conservators dilligence heiranent, with power to them to authorize the saids merchants whoe shall setle and agree with the conservator in maner forsaid to act as factors vntill the nixt generall convention, at which tyme they are to qualifie themselves by being admitted factors by the said convention. EDINBURGH. 17 July 1691. Directions concerning factors.

28. The convention ordanes that all masters of ships, transporting any staple goods to any pairt of the Low Countries that they shall acquent the conservator or his deput that they have caried such goods and shall satisfie them of the conservators dewes, certifieing the saids masters of ships and the factors whoe intromets with these goods that if they doe in the contrare heirof they shall be fyned as the conservator and his court shall think fitt. Skippers to acquent conservator as to staple goods.

29. The convention considering that for many years coall transported furth of this country to the Low Countries payed the conservators dewes, to the vallow sometymes of twenty and 30 styvers on the great hundred, till within these few years that the same hes fallen indeswetude, and in respect that the conservator is much taken vp in the exercise of his office as to the subject matter of coall, as lykwayes concerning skippers, mariners, and merchants whoe transports the same, and therfor in all equity and reason it ought to pay some dewty to him, therfor ordanes as a moderat dewty that coall transported to the Loe Countries shall pay to the conservator of dewes at the rait of ten styvers vpon the great hundred, and the convention heirby reschinds all former acts of generall conventions contrarie therto. Act imposing dues on coall.

30. The convention, "out of benevolence and charity," allowed to Eupham Smith, spous to David Spence, merchant, £400 Scots. Bailly Spences wyfe, 400 li.

31. Having no time fully to consider a letter from the magistrats of Campheer, the convention appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dumbarton and Glasgow to meet after the convention dissolves and answer it. Letter from Campheer.

32. The commissioner of Aberdeen protested in name of himself and the burgh that no act be made in prejudice of the staple until the expiry of the present contract, and that all means be used for causing the same to be kept. Protestation, Aberdeen, anent the staple.

33. Allowed, for services done to the burghs, to James Hamiltoun, writer to the signet, three guineas; to John Veatch of Dawick, presenter of the signatures in exchequer, £50 sterling; to Mr Alexander Dunlop, clerk to the burgh rolls, £5 sterling; to the macers of the privy council and exchequer, 40 merks; to the macers of the session, 40 merks; and to Dawick's servant, five dollors. Allowances for services.

EDINBURGH. 17 July 1691.

Servands fies. 34. Allowed to James Nasmath 100 merks besides his fee of 100 merks, to Henry Kinloch 100 merks besides his fee of £50, and to George Moncur and Andrew Moncur £100 Scots besides George's fee of £106, 13s. 4d., "to the agents man ten rex dollors, and to the wyfe that sweeps the house two rex dollors."

Clerk, gratuity. 35. Allowed to Æneas Macleod, clerk to the burghs, 400 merks "as a gratuity to him for the pains and trouble he hes bein at in the royall burrows affairs this last year."

Absent burghs. 36. Fined the absent burghs in £100 Scots each.

Cromerty. 37. Instructed the committee who are to meet after this convention, to advise with lawyers what course the burghs should take to be eased of the burden of Cromarty's proportion of bygone dues.

Meeting dissolved. 38. Dissolved the present meeting, and appointed next general convention to be held at Dundee in July 1692.

Catoloug of books belonging to conservatorie office.

A CATALOGUE of BOOKS belonging to the conservatorie office produced be the present conservator and appoynted, by the 20 act of the last generall convention in July 1691, to be insert in the borrow books as a standing charge against the conservator and his successors, wherof the tenor followes:

1. Ane court book of the office, Mr James Hacket, conservator, beginning the 24 May 1570 and ending August 26, 1619.
2. A collection of acts, statuts, ordinances, and priviledges by Sir Robert Dennistoun of Muntjoy, conservator, anno 1590.
3. A conservatorie court book beginning May 2, 1621, Sir Robert Dennistoun of Montjoy, conservator, and ending September 26, 1634, Mr Patrick Drummond, conservator.
4. A conservatorie court book begining October 11, 1644, Thomas Cuningham, conservator, and ending February 19, 1655.
5. A conservatorie court book begining May 24, 1662, Sir William Davidson, conservator, and ending the 30 day of August 1670.
6. A conservator court book begining Apryll 1675, Henry Wilkie, conservator, and ending October 15, 1680.
7. A minut of acts of borrowes and acts of parliament and divers formes of wryttings relating to the staple port collected by Henry Wilkie.
8. Register of entries of ships, merchandise, and passengers coming from Scotland to the Low Countries, by ordor of Henry Wilkie, conservator, begining Apryll 20, 1675, and ending March 1683.

9. Register of entries of ships, merchandise, and passengers coming from Scotland to Rotterdam, by ordor of Mr James Kennedy, conservator, begining May 10, 1683, and ending September 3, 1688. EDINBURGH. 17 July 1691. Catoloug of books belonging to conservatorie office.
10. Register of the names of all merchands whoe have payed for ther first voyadge to the Low Countries, begining May 27, 1662, and ending (*blank*).

The above written books are in the custodie of Mr Andrew Kennedy.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Michaell Allan, dean of gild, and Robert Inglis, goldsmith; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Alexander Walker; Stirling, Hugh Kennedy; Linlithgow, William Higgins; Haddingtoun, Mr James Lawder; Kirkcaldie, Robert Whyt; Montross, James Mill; Couper, Andrew Glassfoord; Brichen, Alexander Young; Dumfermling, John Chambers; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Aberbrothock, William Auchterlonie; Quensferrie, Sir William Hamilton; St. Andrews, Glasgow, Dysart, Dumfreis, Bruntjsland, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Carraill and Forfar, (*blank*). EDINBURGH. 20 October 1691. Sederunt.

20 October 1691.

1. Archibald Mure, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Mure, preses.
2. The convention approved of all the commissions produced "except as to the missive letter from some of the magistrats of Aberdeen," but they dispensed with the informality "in respect the said Alexander Walker is a person whoes advyce is very necessar to the borrows by reason of his long experience in trade and in the borrowes affaires." Commissions approven.

3. The convention recomends to ther preses to wryt letters to the Earle of Melvill and the Master of Stairs, principall secretars of state for this kingdome, giving them the thanks of the royall borrowes for ther care in putting a stop to a new project of erecting of a linnen manufacture within this kingdome. Letters to the secretars of state.

4. The convention vpon certane good motives and weightie considerations does recomend to the wholl royal borrowes to put the acts of parliament in execution within ther respective jurisdictions which are made as to the breadth and sufficient working and bleitching of liuning cloath. Linning cloath.

22 October 1691.

EDINBURGH. 22 October 1691.

Linnen manufactory.

5. Compeired Commissar Dalrymple and represented to the convention that he had receaved a letter from the Master of Stair, his Majesties principall secretar of state, wherin wes contained the double of ane patent for erecting of a manufacture of linnen cloath within this kingdome, and that the secretar out of a speciall regaird he hes to the good of the borrowes had desyred him to communicat the same to the convention, which being read in ther presence and considered, they fand that inrespect of the vnfrequencie of the meetting and that the subject matter of the patent is both new and of great importance to the wholl royall borrowes, it wes vnanimouslie resolved that this present meeting wes nether in a dew capacity nor think they it saif to give ther oppinion of ane affair of soe generall and nationall concern vntill the wholl or most pairt of the royall borrowes send ther commissioners sufficiently instructed as to the erection of the said manufacture. [The general meeting was appointed to be held on the first Wednesday of February or on such earlier day as the lord provost of Edinburgh might determine; and any burgh] absent from the said generall meeting shall be holden as a burgh not regarding the interest of the royall burghs and be lyable to such fynes as the said meeting shall impose.

Letters to the lord secretars.

6. Ther wes red and approven by the convention the letters direct from them to the lord secretaries which they ordained to be recorded and signed by ther preses, wherof the tenor followes:—May it pleas your Lordships,—The convention, consisting of threttein, which makes only a quorum of the borrowes, entring vpon the occasion of ther meeting and reasoning the importance of that project for a linnen manufacture in this kingdome by English and Scots hands, found it ane affair of that concern to the nation that they have concluded the calling of ane generall convention of the wholl borrowes to meet heer against the first Wednesday of February nixt. In respect of the winters aproach and the remotness of many of the borrowes wee considered it the shortest tyme wee could allow them just now. Vpon our disolving wee had a paper brought to us called the double of that patent and wee resolved to transmit coppies therof to the wholl royall borrowes that soe they may send ther representatives the better instructed to give ther oppinions theranent. Meantyme

wee return your lordships our most hearty and humble thanks for the seasonable and kynd advertisments wee have receaved of the designe, and wee doe earnestly intreat your lordships will interpose with his Majestie nothing be further concluded vntill wee shall have access to give ane accompt of the full convention ther sentiments; and as this will be, soe far as wee can vnderstand, very acceptable to the wholl nation, soe in particular it will singularlie obleidge the stait of borrowes vpon all occasions most sincerly and effectually to approve themselves, may it pleas your lordships, your lordships most humble and most obleidged servants. Signed by warrand and in presence of this particular convention. EDINBURGH. 22 October 1691. Letters to the lord secretars.

23 October 1691.

7. Remitted to the burghs of Inverness and Nairn to inquire as to the common good of the burgh of Cromertie at the time they resigned their privileges, how the same is conveyed, and as to the present state of the burgh. Cromertie.

8. Allowed £40 Scots to George Moncur for despatching the missives. Moncur, 40 li.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Michael Allan, dean of gild, and Robert Inglis, goldsmith; Perth, George Oliphant and James Crie, baillie; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, John Allardes; Stirling, Hugh Kennedy; Linlithgow, Robert Turnbull; St. Andrews, Mr Alexander Nairn; Glasgow, John Anderson; Air, John Moor; Haddingtoun, Mr James Lawder; Dysart, Alexander Swyn; Kirkcaldie, James Lundie; Montross, James Mill; Couper, Joseph Knox; Dumfreis, John Irving; Bruntjsland, John Broun; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spitell; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Brichen, Francis Molieson; Irving, Mr Alexander Cuningham; Pittenweem, James Cook; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Peibles, Robert Forrester; Forfar, John Carnegie; Northberwick, Sir Thomas Stewart; Cullen, Sir James Ogilvie; Quensferrie, Sir William Hamilton. (Thirty-seven burghs *blank*). EDINBURGH. 3 February 1692. Commissioners.

3 February 1692.

1. Michaell Allan, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses during the provost's absence. Allan, preses.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Comitie, commissions.

EDINBURGH. 5 February 1692.

5 February 1692.

Provost Mure, preses.

3. Sir Archibald Mure, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Commissions approven.

4. Approved of report on the commissions and of the whole commissions produced and accepted letters of excuse from Culros, Elgin, and Inverness.

8 February 1692.

Petition to privie councill, custom and excyse.

5. Having considered the committee's report as to the heads of the missive, the convention appointed a committee "to bring in ane draught of ane petition to be given in by the borrowes to ther Majesties privie councill, and remitis to them to consider whither or not it be the interest of the royall borrowes to offer for ther Majesties custome and excyse presently to be rouped by the lords of thesaurie and exchequer, and report to the convention."

9 February 1692.

Supplicatione to privie councill anent linnen cloath.

6. The convention, considering the drawght of the petition presented to them by the comittie to be given in to the lords of ther Majesties privie councill in name of the royall borrowes, which being publictly read in presence of the convention they ordane the samen to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes:—Vnto the right honorabill the lords of his Majesties privie councill—The supplication of the commissionars of the royall borrowes of this kingdom humbly sheweth:—That wher the petitionars being called to a generall convention presently mett at Edinburgh anent a patent presented by certane persouns at London to ther Majesties for inhaunceing the trade of linning cloath, which patent his Majestie hes been graciously pleased to delay, considering the royall borrowes interest therin, and as the petitionars resolve to return his Majestie ther most humble and heartie thanks for vouchafing his royall protection towards them soe they find themselves obleidged to extend and imploy ther outmost endeavours for the improvement of the linnen trade within this nation, and for that effect have considered severall acts of borrowes made theranent, and particularly the 43 act of the first session, first parliament of King Charles the Second, as alsoe the 12 act of his Majesties 3d parliament, with ane other act made by the councill of trade dated the fyfteen day of August 1688 heirwith produced, by all which great cair and paines have been taken to improve the forsaid trade of linnen, and yet noe suttes

suitable to the designe of the forsaids lawes, and for which noe probable reason can be assigned except that the forsaids lawes have not been put to dew execution and therby are become indeswetude, and it is humblie represented to your lordships that the forsaid trade of linnen is the vniversall concern of the wholl nation, ther being a great pairt of many of the nobility and barrons rents arysing therfrom besyds the importance therof to the royall borrowes, soe they humbly offer to your lordships consideration that the only effectuall way to promot and advance the forsaid trade of linnen is to put the lawes made theranent to dew execution, wherin the petitionars doe make ane humble offer of ther chearfull and hearty concurrance; and if your lordships will be pleased to revive the forsaids acts of parliament and councill of trade mad for the improvement of linnen cloath and yearn, and joyn the magistrats of the royall borrowes within the respective shyres to sie the forsaids lawes dewly put in execution, alse weell in landward as burgh, the petitionars in that caice are very confident to improve the trade of linnen to the great advantadge of the wholl nation and to ther reputation abroad which suffers a great daill throw the irregularitie and insufficiencie of linnen cloath which is exported furth of the kingdome. May it therfor pleas your lordships to take the premisses to your consideration and to lay doune such methods as your lordships in justice shall think fitt which may best conduce to the advancement of the forsaid trade and wherin the petitionars doe humblie offer ther outmost endeavours for attaining the ends above mentioned, and your petitionars shall ever pray, etc. The which petition they approve and appoynts Mr John Brichen, ther agent, to wait vpon the clerks of privie councill and give in the said petition and advance what money is requisit in the said affair which shall be allowed in his accompts; and appoynts the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Glasgow, Montross, Haddington, Dysart, Air and Kirkcaldie to wait vpon the members of their Majesties privie councill and solicit them in the said affair.

EDINBURGH. 9 February 1692.

Supplicatione to privie councill anent linnen cloath.

12 February 1692.

7. The convention approves of the drawght of ane petition presented to them by the comitty, to be given in to the commissionars of ther Majesties thesaurie and exchequer, in name of the royall borrowes, which wes publictly red and appoynted to be recorded, wherof the tenor

Supplication anent the custom and excyse.

EDINBURGH. 12 February 1692.

Supplication anent the custom and excyse.

followes :—Vnto the right honorable the lords commissionars of ther Majesties thesaurie and exchequer, the supplication of the commissionars of the royall borrowes of this kingdom presently mett in a generall convention at Edinburgh, humblie sheweth :—That wher your petitionars vnderstanding that your lordships are to roup the forraigne custome and excyse, and that some offers are alreadie made bot that the matter is still inteir, and it being considered by the royall borrowes that it is ther dewty vpon all occasions to advance ther Majesties service and especiallie vpon the present emergent, it being ther province best to know and vnderstand the intrinsick vallow and product of ther Majesties customes and excyse, the petitionars are desyrous to imbrace the present opportunitie for improving of ther Majesties revenews and are readie to extend ther outmost endeavours for that effect, bot in regaird the present roup wes vnknouen to them vntill they wer come the lenth of Edinburgh, soe that they nather could ask nor receave instructions from ther constituents towards the making of any offer to your lordships anent the forsaid custome and excyse, it is humbly represented that if your lordships shall be pleased and think it convenient to delay any furder procedor in the forsaid roup vntill such compitent tyme as the petitionars may acquent ther respective constituents and advyse with them anent the premisses, they are hopfull to receave such instructions as may warrand them to attend the roup, and it is very probable that as the royall borrowes are certanlie capable to goe equall lenths with any privat persons in advancing the dewty of ther Majesties customs soe they will most chearfullie lay out themselves for that purpose. May it therfor pleas your lordships to take the premisses to your consideration and doe thairin as your lordships in justice shall think fitt, and your petitionars shall ever pray, etc. And appoynts Mr John Buchan, ther agent, to give in the said petition to the clerk of ther Majesties thesaurie and exchequer and advance what money is requisit in the said affair, which shall be allowed to him in his accompts; and appoynts the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Montross and Kirkcaldie to wait vpon the commissionars of ther Majesties thesaurie and exchequer and solicit them in the said affair.

Act allowing secretaries of state gratuitie.

8. The convention "considering the good services don be the secretaries of state in the borrowes affaires, and particularly in relation to the stopping of ane patent of manufactorie of lining cloath that wes designed to be set vp in this

kingdome by Inglish vndertakers," appointed the agent to pay them 2000 merks as a gratuity, and recommended next general convention "to repon the secretaries to ther former pension." EDINBURGH. 12 February 1692.

9. Remitted to the preses "to gratifie Mr William Hamilton, vnder secretarie, for his services done in the borrowes affaires, not exceiding the soume of fifty pund sterling." Gratifieing Mr William Hamiltoun.

10. The convention are of oppinion that application should be made by the royall borrowes to his Majesty anent the debts dew to them by the publict, and particularly by the forces, and that ilk burgh send ane just coppie of the accompts restand to them either by the publict or by the forces to the nixt generall convention which is to meet in July nixt. Debts dew to royall burrowes.

11. The conventione gives full power and commission to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Dundie, Glasgow, Air, Montross, Dumbartoun, Irving, Dysart, Dumfreis, and Kirkcaldie, and any three of them to be a quorum, to meet as a comitty efter the disolving of this convention and take into ther consideration the severall particulars following, viz., that ane address be written in name of the borrowes to his sacred Majestie and ane letter of thanks to the secretaries of state, which are to be sent vp in the black box, and subscryved be the provost of Edinburgh, ther preses, in name of the borrowes; as alsoe to consider what wes expendit by the provost of Edinburgh in the borrowes affair during the tyme he wes at London, and to appoynt the agent to pay the same; and to consider if the King shall be addressed anent the stop and arreist put vpon the Scots effects at Campheer and if a letter shall be written by the comitty in name of the borrowes to the conservator and magistrats of Campheer theranent; as alsoe the wollen manufactorie with that of the linnen in caice the petition of the royall borrowes given in to ther Majesties privie councill be granted. Comittie to meet.

12. On the supplication of Sir William Campbell, the convention allowed him "sex rex dollouris of supplie." Sir William Campbell.

13. Remitted to the committee above mentioned to seriously consider the way and method of farming the customs and excise, and recommended the particular burghs to report to the committee whether or not they will be partners. Custome and excyse.

14. Fined all the absent burghs in £50 scots each. Fines for absence.

15. Remitted to the committee to authorise payment to the servants for "wrytting of the books and ther attendance during the last parliament and this present generall meeting." Servants fees.

DUNDEE. 5 July 1692.

GENERAL MEETING, *held at* DUNDEE.

Commissioners.

Edinburgh, Michaell Allan, dean of gild, and Robert Inglis, goldsmith; Perth, George Oliphant; Dundie, Thomas Mudie; Aberdeen, Patrick Gellie; Stirling, John Dick; Linlithgow, William Higgens; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Leckie; Air, John Moor; Haddingtoun, Mr James Lawder; Dysart, Alexander Swyntoun; Kirkcaldie, James Lundie; Montross, Mr Robert Taylzeor; Couper, Andrew Glasfoord; Dumfreis, Robert Johnstoun; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Bruntjsland, John Broune; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spittell; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Alexander Young; Irving, Mr Alexander Cuningham; Jedburgh, Thomas Porteous; Kirkcudbright, John Ewart; Wigtoun, William Coltran; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, William Wacker; Selkirk, James Mitchelhill; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Rhenfrew, Peter Paterson; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Robert Huntar; Aberbrothock, William Auchterlonie; Elgin, James Stewart; Peibles, John Tweedie; Carraill, George Moncreiff; Tayn, Alexander Ross; Bamff, Alexander Lesly; Whythorn, John M'Candlish; Forfar, John Carnegie; Rothesay, James Kelburn; Nairn, Hugh Ross; Forres, John Brodie, elder; Rutherglen, John Scott; Cullen, John Ogilvie; Lawder, David Maitland; Kilrennie, Thomas Peacok; Dingwall, Donald Dingwall; Quensferrie, Thomas Gourley; Forterose, Thomas Forbes; Innerurie, John Anderson; Kirkwall, Hugh Craigie; Stanraer, Patrick Paterson. (Thirteen burghs *absent*).

5 July 1692.

Preses.

1. James Fletcher, lord provost of Dundie, elected preses.

Commissions.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

Commissions approven.

3. Approved of the whole commissions, "excepting the two commissions from the burghs of Anstruther Eister and Wester as being illegall, having ther commissions from the comunity, they having no magistrats at present, yet out of favor they allow them the priviledge to sit in the convention bot not to vote; and as to the commission from Northberwick in favors of Alexander Stevinson, rejects the samen inrespect he wes never a recidentor within the said burgh nor ever represented them in any publict capacity."

Oath.

4. The whole members signed the oaths of allegiance and assurance.

General committee.

5. Appointed a committee "to consider all things that shall happen to com befor the convention and to rypen the samen to ther consideration."

6 July 1692.

Heads of missive continued.

6. Continued and appointed to be heads of next missive, articles referring to qualifications of commissioners, stopping monopolies and gifts, bridge of Dumbar-

ton, trading with unfreemen, measures of Linlithgow, and putting to execution the act of parliament in favor of royal burghs. DUNDEE. 6 July 1692.

7 July 1692.

7. Instructed the agent to pay to the burgh the sum of £150, disbursed by them several years since in procuring the papers relating to the Scots privileges in France. Edinburgh, French papers.

8. The convention taking to ther consideration the fyfteen article of the missive anent the overturs for curing of hering and salmond and anent the goodnes and sufficiencie of barrells, as lykwayes taking to ther consideration the lait act of parliament anent the fisherie wherby its recomended to the lords of privie councill to receave such overturs from the royall borrous as may most conduce for the better curing of fishes and for the profit and honor of that trade and that ther lordships wold interpose ther authority to the saids overturs; therfor the convention does enact and ordane the following particulars in relation to the said trade of fishing:— First, that all casks be made of weell seasoned knaple or oaken timber free of all whyt wood or worm holls, the heads of them dowlled, the step or stave of a dew and sufficient thicknes of knaple, and if one of staves that non of them be reft or clift, the barrell containing eight gallons and two pynts, and to be full hooped, at least in the one end, with eight hoopes on the other end. 2d. Item, each royall burrow that makes casks for export they are to keep ane burning sale, and the magistrats or dean of gild of that place to appoynt ane honest couper for whom they will be answerable whoe is to view all barrells made for export, and befor they be loadned the maker of the saids casks is to put his oune mark vpon them, and therefter to call the visitor appoynted by the said toune whoe is to try the samen, and if sufficient to put the publict sale vpon them, for which the said visitor is to have four shilling Scots for each last from the maker, and what of the saids barrells are found to be vnsufficient are to be forfaulted for the vse of the poor, and if the saids casks shall be found to be vnsufficient efter the publict mark soe affixed the visitor is to pay therfor sex pounds Scots for each last, and whatever cask shall be found loaden for packing of herrings befor they be visited and soe marked are to be seased as if vnsufficient and applyed for the behoof forsaid. 3d. Item, that all herrings for export be made with French bey or Spanish Act anent the curing of herring and salmond.

DUNDEE. 7 July 1692.

Act anent the curing of herring and salmond.

salt, and that they be all repacked, weell filled and washed, excepting such as goes to the Sound in the foir end of the year. 4th. Item, that each royall burgh are to appoynt ane honest man of judgement in herrings, for whom they are to be answerable, whoe is to visit all herrings exported out of that presinct and whoe is to have a publict burning mark whoe is to affix the samen vpon all whoe is found sufficient, and if any shall be found vnsufficient at the said tryall then they are to be seased on and confiscat for the vse forsaid, and the first buyer to have recourse vpon the maker or curer of the saids herrings; and if found vnsufficient at the port of discharge by legall probation from that place from the dean of gild or merchant judge or the attestation vpon oath of the master of the ship whoe exported the samen and two merchants of good fame declaring the vnsufficiency therof, and that the samen have bein throw the not right curing and making and packing of the saids herrings at first, then the saids merchant is to have recourse for the wholl damnadge sustained throw the insufficiencie therof of the first maker and curer therof; for the better distinguishing of the samen, all makers or curers therof to put ther oune mark by a burning iron vpon them; and whatever herrings are exported wanting the makers mark vpon them the merchant is to have noe recourse for any damnadge, and if shipped aboard for export without the said mark the visitor forsaid hes power to seas and confiscat the samen for the vse forsaid; the said visitors is to have four shilling Scots for each last from the merchant or owner therof. 5th. Item, for the better advancing of the interest of salmond in all forraigne pairts abroad, that the magistrats or dean of gilds of each royall burgh may be authorized to put the acts of parliament in executione within ther severall presincts, and that noe salmond may in tyme coming be salted, pyned, or cured for export bot with Spanish or French salt. And that the agent petition in name of the borrowes the secreit councill for approbation of this act, and to crave that the royall borrowes may have power to put this act to execution within the burghs of regalities and barronies and other places lying within ther presincts, reserving alwayes to Edinburgh and to any other royall burgh ther gifts of jedgerie as accords of the law, reserving lykwayes to Aberdeen the priviledge of jedging of salmond as accords of the law.

Pension to secretaries of state.

9. The convention taking to ther consideration how necessar it is for

the good and interest of the royall borrowes that they have the kyndnes and freindship of the secretars of state, and seing that these many years bypast persons of honor whoe wer in that eminent character had established vpon them a pension from the royall borrowes of two thousand merks yearly, therfor the convention revives all acts of former conventions in relation to the said pension, and that in favores of the two principall secretars of state, and ordanes the present agent and his successors in his office to make payment to them of the said two thousand merks yearly, begining the first years payment at the dait of thir presents by way of advance, and the convention does heirby reschind all former acts of borrowes made against granting pensions to the secretars and declares the samen voyd and null in all tyme coming.

DUNDEE. 7 July 1692. Pension to secretaries of state.

10. Ratified and approved of the whole acts of the general meeting held in February last. Acts approven.

11. Accepted the excuses of the burghs absent from last general meeting and discharged all fines imposed for absence from conventions preceding the present one. Exeming burghs of fines.

12. Ordained the agent to assist any burgh which may be charged at the instance of Ewan M'Grigor in connection with the manufacture of "old broad cards." Old broad cards.

13. The convention . . . . . find that the royall borrowes are not deficient in putting to executione the saids acts within ther respective jurisdictions, bot that the trew caus, stop, and hinderance why linnen cloath is not of that vniversal breadth and soe sufficiently wrought and bleitched as it ought to be within the shyres of the kingdome, is for want of power and jurisdictiou in the royall borrowes to execut the saids acts within the saids shyres, and therfor authorizes and impowers the agent, by advyce of the provost of Edinburgh, to petition the lords of secreit councill craving that ther lordships wold take some effectuall course how the royall borrowes may be authorized and impowered to execut the saids acts of parliament within ther respective shyres. Linnen cloath.

14. The convention declares that it is and alwayes wes the meaning and trew import of the factors at Campheer ther obleidgements to the royall borrowes that factors and ther sureties are bound and obleidged to make good and be lyable for all the debts of merchants goods which they shall happen to sell belonging to the merchants ther constituents, and Anent factors.

DUNDEE. 7 July 1692.

that a factor cannot have power to communicat the priviledge of his factorie to any other person by taking him in copartnery with himself without consent of the royall borrowes.

11 July 1692.

Act impowring clerk to record severall letters.

15. The convention having read and approven the letter to his Majestie, two letters to the secretars, a letter to the toune of Campheer, and the letter to the conservator, all sent by the lait particular convention which hes happened since the last generall convention; as lykwayes having read and approven ane letter direct to his Majestie and two letters to the secretars, togither with ane letter from the toune of Campheer to the royall borrowes, and ane letter from the royall borrowes to them, as alsoe ane letter from the conservator with the answer therof, all which letters are direct to and from this present convention, and considering that such a number of letters are of a great lenth and will take vp much tyme to insert them at lenth in the borrow book befor the subscriptions of the commissionars of this generall convention, therfor grants warrand to the clerk to record all these letters in the borrow book efter the convention is risen, provyding alwayes that the clerk record the wholl letters as they are marked vpon the back by the provost of Dundie, preses of this convention, declaring that the saids letters swa recorded in the book efter the subscriptions of the present commissionars shall be also valeid and make alse good faith as if they had been booked befor the rysing of the convention.

Panton, factor.

16. Admitted Robert Panton, merchant in Aberdeen, to be a factor at the staple port at Campheer, and received obligation of his cautioner.

Hamiltoun, factor.

17. Agreed to the admission of John Hamilton, merchant in Rotterdam, to be a factor at the staple port of Campheer, and remitted to a committee to receive the bonds of caution.

Stewart, factor.

18. Remitted to a committee to admit Gilbert Stewart, merchant in Dundee, at present in Holland, to be a factor at Campheer on receiving the obligation of his cautioners.

12 July 1692.

Act anent the laird of Greenock

19. Anent the petition given in be Sir John Schaw, younger of Greenock, mentioning that wher ane comittie of the convention of the

DUNDEE. 12 July 1692.

Act anent the laird of Greenock.

royall borrowes, at Candlemas j^m vj^c and nynty one, having vnder ther view the lait act of parliament in ther favores, did wryt to the lords and gentlemen whoe wer masters of the burghs of barronies and regalities, desyring them to come or send persons instructed to them for making proposalls in ordor to the communication of trade, the petitionar vpon receipt of his letter with others did come and wait vpon the comittie and ther made the offer efter mentioned which wes rejected by a single vot in that comittie consisting of sex. In July therefter, the convention of borrowes having mett, the petitionar made application to be heard vpon the justice and reasonableness of his offer, which being allowed by the borrowes he resumed his offer for his toune, viz., that it should pay a proportionable pairt of the burden imposed vpon the royall borrowes by act of parliament effeirand to the trade of his toune, he alwayes having a vote with the borrowes in making vp of the stent roll, and for that effect the said petitionar desyred that the convention might take the same way of tryall as to the trade of his toune that they tooke for the tryall of the burghs royall. It being asked at Greenock how his offer could be made effectuall if the borrowes wer willing to accept therof, to which Greenock answered that he wold ingadge himself for the burden put vpon his toune and to make the offer effectuall, the borrowes royall allowing him to suit execution of the lait act of parliament made in ther favors in ther names against such of the inhabitants of his toune as did trade and wold not pay ther proportion of the stent to be imposed vpon them for the releif of the royall borrowes for which he wes to vndertake. Vpon this offer the royall borrowes wer pleased to appoynt ane comittie to meet with the said petitionar, John Anderson of Dowhill being one, and vpon the report of the comittie Greenocks offer being soe reasonable the convention did allow to him ane liberty of trade for his toune till the nixt convention of borrows, yet, notwithstanding of the forsaid offer and the borrowes liberty to Greenock in February last, the toune of Glasgow did applye to ane comitty of the borrowes then sitting at Edinburgh for a warrand to secure some herrings that wer to be exported by the tounsmen of Greenock and since hes caused sumond threttie or fourtie of Greenocks men at the dean of gilds instance befor the comissars of Glasgow. In respect that Greenock is still willing to adhere to the aforsaid offer and to give his security for what proportion of the burden shall be

DUNDEE. 12 July 1692.

Act anent the laird of Greenock.

put vpon his toune as aforsaid, and therfor craveand the convention to take the premisses to ther consideration, receave the offer made by the said petitionar, appoynt two of ther number to consider the trade of Greenock that they may report to the conventione theranent, and give such a reprimand to the toune of Glasgow that in tyme coming they may know themselves to be subject and not above the generall convention of the royall borrowes; and the said petitionar shall ever pray. (*Sic subscribitur:*) JOHN SCHAW. As the petition bears. Which being considered be the convention they appoynt the commissionars for the burghs of Perth and Stirling to visit the burgh of Greenock as to ther trade, whoe are to report against the nixt generall convention, at which tyme they will take the other poynts now debaited at this convention to ther consideration, and in the interim discharges the toune of Glasgow, the agent, or any other burgh, to trouble the toune of Greenock for ther trade or to put the lait act of parliament in favours of the royall borrowes to execution against the inhabitants of Greenock, declaring all the dilligencess alreadie vsed against them by Glasgow or any other royall burgh to be voyd and null; provyding alwayes the said laird of Greenock be bound and obleidged to make payment to the royall borrowes of what proportion of the taxt roll he shall be stented in efter the said report, and that the said taxt commencing from the dait of thir presents; declaring that the said laird of Greenock shall have his releif of the said tax swa to be made from the inhabitants of Greenock, and for that effect impowers the agent to concur with him in obtaining his releife from all importers and exporters of goods within the said burgh, not excepting portadge. Against the granting of which act in favores of Greenock the commissionar for Glasgow protested and took instruments, as lykwayes the commissionars for Edinburgh and Stirling disassented against the premisses in favores of Greenock.

Act anent William Anderson.

20. Anent the supplication given in be William Anderson, son to the deceist William Anderson, lait provost of Glasgow, craving that the sex thousand merks which he had payed to the publict for a fyne as being accessorie to the sending of ane letter to King Charles the second from the borrowes in the year seventy four, and craving, seing the same wes a publict concern of the royall borrowes, that the said fyne should be casten proportionally vpon the burghs and payed to him; the which

supplication being at lenth heard, considered, and debaited amongst them, and it being publictly declared befor the convention by the commissionars of Aberdeen and Jedburgh that ther burghs had payed ther commissionars whoe wer imprisoned and fyned vpon the same accompt, and that the royall borrowes ought to be free therof, the convention declares that they are nowayes lyable to pay any pairt of the said debt bot wes of the oppinion that the samen ought to be payed by the toune of Glasgow, the petitioners father being commissionar for that burgh, and acted at the convention as such, and that his actings ther wes approven by ane act of the toune of Glasgow. For these reasons the convention recomends the petitionar to the toune of Glasgow for payment of the said fyne and ordanes the clerk of Glasgow to give him ane extract of the said act out of the toun councill books of Glasgow.

DUNDEE. 12 July 1692.

Act anent William Anderson.

21. Appointed a committee to meet on the second Tuesday of August and thereafter as they may fix, with power to receive the bonds of factors and their cautioners, to correspond with the conservator as to the minister at Campheer, the master of the consergerie house, and the money belonging to the Scots poor, and to consider anything relating to the office of conservator.

Committee appointed.

22. Authorised the provost of Edinburgh and the commissioner for Dumbarton to commune with the Lord Viscount of Tarbet, as to freeing the burghs of the burden of Cromarty's proportion of arrears of dues owing to the public, and if the matter be not settled the committee appointed to meet as to the conservator's affairs are to take such course in the matter as is fitting.

Anent Cromertie.

13 July 1692.

23. Agreed to the admission of Thomas Grahame, merchant in Rotterdam, to be a factor at Campheer, on the usual conditions, and bond of caution granted.

Grahame, factor.

23a. Ordained the agent "to petition the lords of thesaurie, in name of such burghs as inclyne to doe the same, for payment of such soumes of money as are dew to them vpon the accompt of his Majesties forces."

Sums due to burghs.

24. John Buchan, advocate, agent for the burghs, undertook to relieve them of ten per cent. of the King's cess and missive dues for three years from Lammas next, in consideration of which the convention granted to him "the sole and universall power from the dait of thir presentis which the royall burrowes hes in executing the lait act of parliament made in ther favores, of the dait 14 June 1690, and of executing the lait act of borrowes, of the dait 10 July 1691, made against freemen of borrowes tradding with vnfriemen either in poynt of merchandise or shipping, with power to him and his substituts for whom he shall be ansuerable to put the samen acts to full and finall executione throw the wholl

Act in favor of Mr John Buchan.

DUNDEE. 13 July 1692.

Act in favor of Mr John Buchan.

royall borrowes and against unfrie tradders, and generally with power to the said Mr John to communicat the benefit of trade during the said space to regalities, barronies and other vnfree places as he thinks fitt, and to doe everything in relation to the saids acts which the royall burrowes might have done befor the dait of thir presents;" with power to apply the fines, penalties, and casualties arising under the acts to his own use; and that for the space of three years from the date of this act, and the arrangement to continue for two years longer if he thinks fit; provided always "that it shall be in the power of the royall burrowes, vpon application of burghs of barronies and regalities and other vnfre places to have the priviledge of trade communicat to them, to receave and admit them vpon such compositions as the burghs shall think fitt," the benefit of the composition being paid to Buchan.

14 July 1692.

Agents accompts approven.

25. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1691 to July 1692 extending to £14,535 12s. $10\frac{1}{12}$d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions.

Agent gratuity.

26. Allowed to John Buchan, agent, £500 Scots of gratuity.

Report by visitors, tax roll altered.

27. The conventione taking to ther consideratioun the eight article of the missive anent the report to be made by James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, Alexander Walker, bailly in Aberdeen, and John Moor, lait provost of Air, and Mr James Smollet, lait provost of Dumbartoun, commissionars appoynted by the last generall convention of borrowes in July 1691 to visit the wholl royall burghs of this kingdome anent ther trade and comon good, to the effect ane impartiall taxt roll might be made out of ther report, which dilligences and report wes exhibited by them to the convention in writ; and lykwayes the convention considering that befor the said report wes taken vnder ther cognizance Mr John Buchan, advocat, ther agent, did make ane free and voluntar offer to the convention that he will vndertake the releiving and disburdening of the borrowes of ten pounds Scots of the 100 lib. of the taxt roll, both as to what is or shall be dew to the King for cess and of the tenth pairt of the missive dewes, conforme to his bond granted to them theranent, and conform to the act of borrowes made in his favores by this present convention at lenth contained in the said bond and act, whervpon the convention demurred to proceed any furder as to the written report exhibited by the visitors bot resolved to communicat the benefit of the said tenth pairt of the taxt roll swa offered by the said Mr John to such burghs as the convention should judge most deserves the same and for that effected appoynted the commis-

sionars for Edinburgh [and sixteen other burghs to meet as a committee and divide the same; the report of which committee the convention adopted and altered the tax roll and fixed the same as follows :—] DUNDEE. 14 July 1692. Tax roll altered.

Edinburgh	£32	6	8	Peibles	£0	11	0
Perth	3	0	0	Carraill	0	6	0
Dundie	4	13	4	Tayn	0	5	0
Aberdeen	6	1	0	Culross	0	4	0
Stirling	1	8	8	Bamff	0	7	0
Linlithgow	1	6	0	Whythorn	0	1	4
St Andrews	0	12	0	Forfar	0	4	0
Glasgow	15	0	0	Rothesay	0	5	0
Air	1	1	4	Nairn	0	1	6
Haddingtoun	1	12	0	Forres	0	4	0
Dysart	0	5	0	Rutherglen	0	2	0
Kirkcaldie	2	8	0	Northberwick	0	1	0
Montross	2	0	0	Cullen	0	1	4
Couper	0	18	0	Lawder	0	5	0
Anstruther Eister	0	3	0	Kilrennie	0	1	4
Dumfreis	1	18	4	Annan	0	2	0
Invernes	1	10	0	Lochmaben	0	3	0
Bruntjsland	0	12	0	Sancquhar	0	1	0
Innerkeithing	0	5	0	Galloway	0	1	0
Kinghorn	0	7	0	Dingwall	0	1	4
Brichen	0	9	0	Dornoch	0	3	0
Irving	0	10	0	Quensferrie	0	9	0
Jedburgh	0	17	0	Forteross	0	3	0
Kirkcudbright	0	6	0	Kintoir	0	1	6
Wigtoun	0	6	0	Inverarie	0	4	0
Pittenweem	0	5	0	Innerurie	0	2	0
Dumfermling	0	15	0	Week	0	3	4
Anstruther Wester	0	1	0	Kirkwall	0	12	0
Selkirk	0	12	0	Inverbervie	0	1	0
Dumbartoun	0	5	0	Stanraer	0	2	0
Rhenfrew	0	6	0	Mr John Buchan for regalities and barronies	10	0	0
Dunbar	0	10	0				
Lanerk	0	10	0				
Aberbrothock	0	9	0	Summa	100 lib.		
Elgin	1	3	0				

And the convention ordanes the said report exhibited be the visitors to be sealled by the publict seall of the burgh of Dundie and therefter to be Report by visitors.

DUNDEE. 14 July 1692.

put in the clerks hands to remain *in retentis*, to be furthcomand for the vse of the royall borrowes whenever they shall have necessarly adoe with the saids reports.

Tax roll altered.

Stewart, factor.

28. Agreed to the admission of Gilbert Stewart, merchant in Dundee, to be a factor at Campheer on the usual conditions.

Act in favor of Glasgow, etc.

29. The convention declares that whensoever any found shall happen in favores of the royall borrowes wherby they may be enabled to ease any of thair members that then the enshewing conventions shall take vnder ther speciall consideration the burghs of Glasgow, Dumfreis, Haddingtoun, and Stanraer, and that they obtane ease of the taxt roll accordingly and be first considered befor any other royall burgh and eased as said is.

Anent burghs not staying till book subscryved.

30. The convention does declare and caused intimat to the members of the convention that if any of them shall withdraw themselves and not subscryve the borrow book that then it shall be in ther power to alter any abaitments or eases that hes bein gott by any of the burghs swa withdrawing as the convention shall think fitt, and attour shall be holden as absence and lyable to such fynes as are imposed by former conventions vpon absent burghs.

Greenock allowing visitors £20.

31. Allowed to the commissioners of Perth and Stirling, who are to visit Greenock, the sum of £20 sterling.

Allowing Sir James Rocheid 1000 merks.

32. It being represented to the convention by some of ther number that thes twenty years last, ther clerk, Sir James Rocheid had served the interest of the royall borrowes faithfully and had received noe remuneratioun for his pains and service in ther concerns, therfor and in some measure to gratifie him vpon that accompt they ordane ther agent, Mr John Buchan, to make payment to the said Sir James Rocheid or his ordor, the soume of ane thousand merks Scots.

Act exeiming severall burghs.

33. Granted exemption to the burghs of Wigtoun, Dingwall, Forterose, Forres, Tayn, Kirkwall, Nairn, Rothesay, Stranraer, Sanquhar, Kilrennie, Kintoir, Innerurie, Inverbervy, Whythorn, Kirkcudbright, Rutherglen, and Innerarie, from appearing at conventions for the space of three years unless specially required.

Servants, gratuities.

34. Allowed to Henry Kinloch £15 sterling and to James Nasmeth £5 sterling as gratuities over and above their yearly salaries.

Servants of Dundie.

35. Allowed £20 sterling to the public servants of Dundee in consideration of their "kind and ready service."

36. Allowed to Andrew and George Moncur, burgh officers, "for ther extraordinar pains at this convention," £250, in addition to George's yearly salary; to "Sir William Campbell sex rex dollars, and to the agent's man ten rex dollars." DUNDEE. 14 July 1692. Fees.

37. Ordained the agent to pay to Alexander Dunlop, clerk to the burgh rolls, £60 Scots. Alexander Dunlop.

38. Granted to the commissioners of Anstruthers Easter and Wester power to vote at this time in the alteration of the tax roll notwithstanding the third act of this convention, but this not to form a precedent. Anstruther Easter and Wester.

39. It being represented to the convention by the commissioner for the burgh of Anstruther Eister that ther wes ane action of reduction and improbation of all ther comon good at the instance of Sir Philip Anstruther, which persuit is of soe dangerous a consequence that if he prevaill the burgh will be rendered altogether uncapable for ever to injoy the priviledge of a royall burgh, and therfor craved that Mr John Buchan, agent, might be impowred to assist them in defence of the said persuit vpon the borrowes charges, the convention not being willing to engadge in ther defence rashly without previous tryall of the natur of the persuit and of the persewars pretences, does therfor remit the samen to the consideration of the provost of Edinburgh and the commissionar for Dumbartoun to speak and comon with the said Sir Philip thereanent and therefter to take such course thairin as they shall sie caus, with power to them to ordor the agent to be concerned thairin as they think just. Petition of Anstruther Eister.

40. The convention unlawed the burghs absent in £100 Scots each. Absents fyned.

15 July 1692.

41. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July next. Dissolving convention.

42. John Buchan produced his bond for relieving the burghs of the tenth part of the tax roll. Buchan, bond.

FOLLOWES the LETTERS, appointed to be recorded by the 15th act of last general convention.

May it pleas your Sacred Majestie,

Interest alse weel as dewtie does tye your royall borrowes to a mor immediat dependance vpon that royall authoritie which gave them both ther being and priviledges. Wee have a late instance of your Majesties Letter to his Majestie.

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter to his Majestie.

royall care of us in the project for setling a lining manufactorie in this kingdome by Inglish hands, as it does threatten the prejudice of our state in particular soe the adjusting of it wold requyre the wisdome of the parliament as being the generall concern of the nation.

Severall of our merchants have applyed to us humbly to address your Majestie that yow wold be graciouslie pleased to caus remove ane arreist of ther effects by the magistrats of Campheer vpon alledged breatch of contract, which in tyme of war cannot possiblie be dewlie observed but by ther furnishing necessar and reddie convoyes, in which event wee purpose to hold the contract stable. Great Sir, wee doe earnestly beseech Almighty God to vouchafe his best blessings on your Majesties sacred person and government and that his divyn hand may give succes to your armes which shall ever be the prayer of, may it pleas your sacred Majestie, [etc.] (*Sic subr*) ARD. MURE, *P.* Edinburgh the 19 April 1692.

Letter for the right honorabill the Maister of Stair, principal secretar of state for the kingdom of Scotland.

My Lord,—The royall borrowes conveined in February last to deliberat vpon the project of the lining manufactory did conclud it most prejudiciall to ther state, and towards the improving of that manufactory did apply to the lords of ther Majesties privie councill humblie supplicating that ther lordships wold be pleased to revive these acts of parliament appoynting the breadth and lenth of the pices of the linning cloath, and therin offered that not only in ther respective jurisdictions they should take care to have these acts observed bot if ther lordships wer pleased to conjoyn them with shirriffes or ther deputs, baillies of regalities and ther deputs, that they wold concur with them that the manufactorie might be regulat effectuallie over the wholl nation, being convinced that if these measurs be not speedely taken ther nighbours may come to outdoe them. We have hitherto waited ane returne to it bot the committie of borrowes ordored to attend it judge they cannot be accomptable to the borrowes to delay any longer the addressing his Majestie vpon that project; as alsoe that he wold be graciously pleased to interpose for removing the arreists put vpon the effects of severall of our merchants at Campheer by ther magistrats which as yet does continow, to ther great prejudice, for ane alleidged breatch of contract which in tyme of war cannot in all its punctilioes be got observed, as yow will perceave by what we have writt to his Majestie. Wee are bold to leave these two immediat concerns of the borrowes to

your wyse conduct, and wee alsoe humbly intreat that your lordship may be pleased to interess your self in such of ther affaires as at any tyme requyre your favor and assistance, which will exceedingly add to the former obligations yow have put on us and obleidge us to continow vnder the dew sense of them. Signed by, [etc.]. Edinburgh, 19 April 1692.

DUNDEE. July 1692. Letter for the Maister of Stair.

My Lord,—Wee doe heartielie congratulat your advancement which we are perswaded will be ane advantadge mor nationall to us then peculiar to your self. Ye will sie by this how airly wee adventur to give yow trouble without any other apologie then that it concerns your oune native countrie. Wee doubt not bot ye have heard of a designe that some particular merchants at London had to sett vp a linning manufactory, or rather monopoly, in this kingdome, which wold have ruined us and prejudged a great deall mor whose rents arryse to them from the product of linning cloath. This designe it pleased his Majestie to delay, and wee hop from what wes offered by us against it the thing may be over. Wee judge it not fit to be too secure, and therfor we doe by this address your lordship, that if any such motion shall be againe renued yow will be pleased to make it knowen to us and use your endeavours with his Majestie to stop in the meantyme till wee be fullie heard vpon it. Your lordship shall further know that the toun of Campheer, which is our staple port, have most unjustlie, vpon some pretence of a breatch on our pairt of the contract anent the staple, arreisted a great deall of Scots effects in Campheer, to the very great prejudice of severall of our merchants. This is the hardest dealling can be, considering that wee have given noe provocation, and albeit that might be pretended wee think they are sufficiently provyded to a remedie by our being bound in a contract, especiallie now when wee are under one King whoe can command the performance of mutuall justice betuixt us, soe we most recomend it to your lordship to take your oune prudent way with these people of Campheer that they may remove ther arreistment without further hearing.

Letter for the right honorabill James Johnston, esquire, principal secretar of state for the kingdome of Scotland.

My Lord, we are very hopfull your lordship will oune us in these and all our other concerns, which we shall cairfully make knouen as they emerge, and we shall endeavor to show a dewtiefull resentment vpon all occasions. This, in name of the royall borrowes, is signed by [etc.]. Edinburgh, 19 Apryll 1692.

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter for the right honorable the magistrats of Campheer.

My Lords,—Wee are exceedinglie surprysed by your last letter to us quherby yow are pleased to insinuat that a breatch is made vpon our pairt of that contract betuixt your toune and us, and we vnderstand that some privat persons resident with yow have bein active to foment this matter, and yow have soe far proceeded vpon this groundles mistake as to arreist the effects of severall Scots merchants. Wee most tell yow that this is ane other kynd of treatment then wee expected, for as we are readie vpon the one hand to vindicat our selves of all these aspersions, and that our acts and letters are all of one piece and not contradictorie as your letter does import, soe wee think ye are sufficiently secure in all events by our being bound in a contract with yow to get reparation in any thing that can be pretended, without the necessity of falling vpon and seasing privat mens goods against whom nothing can be said, besyds that, blessed be God, wee are vnder the protection of a gracious Prince whoe will take care each performe conditions to other. It is our opinion that the sooner these arreistments yow have laid on be removed it will soe much alleviat the prejudice that is taken vp by some of our members; and in the mean tyme, for vindicating the honor of the royall borrowes, ye may be confident that wee will readilie performe our pairts of that staple contract, yow being reciprocall in the matter soe that yow may spare the taking vp of any jealousie against us untill yow have better grounds, for as we never meaned to violat the faith we have pledged soe wee are sorie that anything should prevaill with yow to suspect us; and if any Scots ships have without our knowledge or allowance passed your port, except in the caices of inevitable necessity, wee shall readilie, vpon the dilation of them, doe justice against the ouners or in anything els repair yow wherin ye shall instruct your selves lesed by us; and this we both think and hop may give yow satisfaction except yow resolve to break up all correspondance. Wee are confident our conservator will give yow noe just ground of offence, or if he does it shall be taken to our consideration efter we have heard both pairties vpon it. Wee vnderstand the conservator to be of a temper mor readie to obleidge then offend, and wee could wish and doe very much desyre that ther may be noe mistake betuixt yow and him but that matters amongst all of us may runn in the old channell of love and freindship as it hath been keeped vp by our predicessors. This in name of the burrows is signed by, my lords [etc]. Edinburgh 19 Apryll 1692.

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter for Mr Andrew Kennedy of Cloburn, lord conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands.

My Lord Conservator,—Wee are very sensible of your singular care in all the affaires relating to us under your trust, and whatever insinuations may be made to the contrare shall not perswad us to make the least question of your sinceritie and dilligence. Wee think the magistrats of Campheer have dealt hardlie with us and soe as to make ther contract of a short endurance. Wee have written to the King and both the secretaries about it, and have sent the inclosed to them which ye will be pleased to delyver, and that yow may know the contents wee have given yow a just double. Wee are confident that if they demur in the least to loose ther arreistments the King will be concerned to doe it and then we shall know to whom wee owe the favor. Meantyme wee desyre ye may caus cite Mr Gordoun befor the nixt generall convention for we vnderstand he hes been noe good instrument. It will be necessar that he appear befor us to make compt for what Scots effects he hes had and to renew his caution becaus Provost Gordoun of Aberdeen whoe wes hes last cautionar is now dead. Wee approve what ye did in the matter of that protest against him, and wee resolve to let any man know that disobleidges yow in the exercise of your trust that we most be pairties. You may let the toune of Campheer know that wee are sufficiently resolved to doe them justice but can never be satisfied to think vpon them without grudge soe long as they oppress particular persons whoe are not concerned vpon our pretended breatch. Wee have nothing more to say in particular but that wee doe remit what concerns our merchants to your care and justice and yow shall find us readie vpon all occasions to give a dew resentment of your respects towards us. This in name of the royall borrowes is signed by [etc.], ARD. MURE, P. Edinburgh 19 Apryll 1692.

Followes the letter from his sacred Majestie to the royall borrowes.

Letter from his Majestie to the royall borrows.

To our right trustie and weell beloved, the commissionars of our royall borrowes of our ancient kingdom of Scotland. *Sic suprascribitur* WILLIAM, R,—Right trusty and weell beloved wee great yow weell. Wee are weell satisfied with that dewtifull sence yow expres in yours of the 19th of Apryll last of the interest of our royall borrowes to have a mor immediat and particular dependance on the croune. That state hath alreadie receaved considerable marks of our favor and wee doe expect

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter from his Majestie to the royall borrows.

from our royall borrowes a singular readiness on all occasions for our service and care to manadge and promove trade which may increase the riches of the wholl kingdom and of that estate in particular. Yow need not apprehend that wee will grant any patents or erections to the prejudice or monopolizing of the trade or manufacture of that our ancient kingdome, or to discouradge our royall borrowes or other subjects ther. Wee recomend to yow the improvement of your meettings for the use they wer designed to fall vpon some effectuall measures for the advancement of the trade and manufacture of the kingdom in which yow may assure your selves of our protection and assistance. The publict faith of the burrows obleidges yow to be exact in keeping the staple port and performing all the articles of the contract betwixt yow and the toune of Campheir. Wee have interposed with that toune to take off the arreist they have laid vpon your effects ther that the failours which may be committed hitherto by either pairtie may be past over, and that for the futur both yow and they may observe the contract in every poynt, that they may provyd sufficient convoyes for the securitie of the ships during the war at such seasons as they and our conservator and resident shall aggree, in which he will advyse with yow, and yow are to intimat to your inhabitants to have ther ships ready to saill with the convoyes at these fixed dyets soe as the trade may be secure and the convoyes may not come in vain to yow, which wee judge may prevent any mistakes betuixt yow in tyme coming. And soe wee bid yow heartilie fareweell. Given at our campt att Bethlem near Lovan the $\frac{18}{28}$ dayes of May 1692 years and of our reigne the fourth year. By his Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* JO DALRYMPLE.

Letter from the royall borrowes in answer to his sacred Majesties letter.

May it pleas your sacred Majestie,—Your gracious letter having com to us at the opening of our convention did exceedinglie animat and incouradge us, and wee doe with all sinceritie and thankfulnes bliss and adore the divyne providence for the protection and safetie and many other rich blessings wee doe injoy vnder your Majesties government and for which wee judge it both our dewty and interest to extend ourselves to the utmost vpon all occasions for your Majesties service.

Wee doe lykwayes with all humilitie and thankfulness acknowledge that we have received many singular marks by your royall bountie and

favor, and especciallie at this tyme when your Majestie is imployed in the great and weightie affaires of Ewrop your Majestie hes bein graciously pleased to take notice of our particular concerns in putting a stopt to the designe of monopolizing our trade of linnen. Wee sall in obedience to your Majesties commands endeavour by all possible means to improve and advance that and all vther manufactories amongst ourselves wherin we can propose noe impediment seing wee have the assurance of your royall protection and assistance.

DUNDEE. July 1692. Letter from the royell borrowes in answer to his sacred Majesties letter.

Wee are furder most sensible of your Majesties care of us in taking of these arreists laid on the Scots effects at Campheer. Wee are resolved vpon our pairt most inviolable to observe your royal commands anent the observance of the staple contract and to give the toune of Campheer such tymeous intimations as may serve for ther sending us necessary convoyes and to correspond with them and the conservator thairanent.

Wee return your Majestie our most humble and hearty thanks for these great expressions of your royall bounty towards us, and that the Almighty God may power furth his best blissings vpon your sacred person and government and vouchaf your Majestie great succes and victory over all your enemies is and shall be the prayer of, may it pleas your sacred Majesty, [etc.] Dundie 15 July 1692.

Letters for the right honorable the Maister of Stair and James Johnston, esquire, principall secretaries of state for the kingdom of Scotland.

My Lord—The royall borrowes are extreamelie sensible of your care and concern for them. They have received a letter from his Majestie which contains many expressions of his royall bounty and favor and haue returned to his Majestie ther humble answer which they desyre to be addressed to him by your lordship.

The convention hes at this meetting in pairt considered ther dewty to your lordship and are all convinced that they owe very much vnto your favor, and resolves to haue ane immediat dependance vpon your lordship as to what may emerge for the futur. They doe humblie expect your lordship will continow to patronize and assist them and will alwayes retaine the sence that it is ther dewty to be, my lord, [etc.]

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Followes the letter which wes sent from the magistrats of Campheer to the royall borrowes and is translated out of Dutch into Inglish.

Letter from the magistrats of Campheer to the royall borrowes.

Noble and worshipfull Lords—Wee have receiued your lordships missive dated the 26th Apryll 1692 and signed, in name of the borrowes, Ard. Mure, wherby your lordships amongs vther things declare ye are readie to follow and fulfill the staple contract in all its articles, to forgett the mistaks that hes fallen out betuixt your lordships and us, and that the old freindship and good correspondence should be renewed and maintained, wee on the other pairt doeing the lyke, which suposed differences his Majestie of Great Brittan, our lord and marques, will have taken away, and accordingly acquented us by missive dait the 27 May 1692 that his Majestie had thought good to wryt to your lordships and us that all abusses which have hither bein done should be holden as if they had not bein done, and forgiven on both syds, and that hencfurth the agreement made betuixt your lordships and us should be observed in all the poynts and articles therof, and that the arreist laid on the Scots goods should be taken of; which missives, alse weell that of his Majestie as of your lordships, with what are therin contained wer very acceptable unto us, and as your lordships are willing to forget the misunderstandings that haue arisen betwixt us and to entertaine the old freindship soe wee declare with heart and mouth that the same is not only acceptable unto us but we will fullie assur your lordships that wee on our pairt shall noe mor remember the differences which have fallen out but on the contrair shall participat with your lordships in keeping vp all the old freindship betuixt the borrowes and this government. Be assured that we shall contribut all wee are obleidged to for mentaining the staple contract. Wee have alsoe further spoken with the lord conservator concerning the contract and debaits therabout whoe hath promised to us to doe all what wes in his power for the observing and causing to be observed the staple contract, vpon whose promise and your lordships satisfaction given and the desyre of his Majestie wee have this day taken of the arreist. Wee will assure your lordships that nothing vther as a good harmonie with the borrowes and the lord conservator shall be established by us which wee hop to sie alsoe from your lordships and the lord conservator, with which we recomend your lordships worshipfull persons and government

to Gods providence and shall always remain, noble and worshipfull lords, [etc.] In absence of the clerk, signed, PETER NAELHOUT. Campheer 18 June 1692. DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter from the royall borrowes in answer to the magistrats of Campheer's letter.

My lords,—Wee received yours which coming to our hands at the sitting of our generall convention in July wes communicat to all our members whoe wer all weell satisfied to know that former mistakes and differences betuixt yow and us are removed. Wee doe heartilie simpathize with yow in forgetting what is past of that kynd and in our resolutions for the futur to intertaine the old freindship and correspondence; and now seing the Kings Majestie hes bein graciously pleased to interpose his royall comands wee are confident that as wee esteem ourselves bound in dewty to observe the samen soe your lordships will be guilty of noe failour vpon your pairt, and in prosecution of the bussines wee have thought fitt to acquent yow that it is the desyre of the convention that yow may send two sufficient convoyes, not vnder threttie guns apice, twyse in the year, to attend twenty dayes in the road of Leith, the first against the midle of September and the other against the midle of March, yearly, commencing your first convoy against the midle of September nixt, and soe to continow; as alsoe wee desyre that when our fleet is reddy to come of that yow have such sufficient convoyes as are abovementioned reddy to return back hither with our ships, and wee shall endeavour to have our fleet in readines to goe alongest with your convoyes. Wee shall alsoe endeavour inviolablie to observe the wholl remanent pairts of the contract betuixt yow and us and have written to the lord conservator that he may be carefull to sie every thing rightly and equally adjusted betuixt us. Wee have nothing further to say bot to wish all welfar and prosperity to your persons and government and to assure yow that vpon all occasions wee will readilie approve ourselves, my lords, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur*: JA. FLETCHER, P. Dundie 15 July 1692.

Followes the letter sent from the conservator to the royall borrowes.

Letter from the conservator to the royall borrowes.

Right honorable, right worshipfull, and right worthie,—Your honours kynd and obleidging letter, daited Apryll 26, signed by your preses, Sir Archbald [Mure] of Thorntoun, my lord provost of Edinburgh, cam not to hand till June $\frac{1}{11}$, and efter that I had returned from the King at the camp,

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter from the conservator to the royall borrowes.

and had obtained his Majesties answer to your honors letter of the 19 of Apryll; as alsoe a very favorable letter from his Majestie to the toune of Campheer requyring them to take off the arreist, the delyverie of which being committed to my care; as lykwayes your honours letter to the toune of Campheer quhich wes inclosed in myn. The magistrats of Campheer received both with all dewtiefull respect, and yesterday, by ther publict act, did take off the arreist and personally by word of mouth did intimat the same to William Gordoun. Right honorable, I yet stay heer for the extract of ther act that all may be sure, as lykwayes for a declaration that now they have come to have the possession in ther hands of two perpetuall obligations belonging to the poor of the staple congregation, the one being for 400 lib. and the other for 300 lib., Fleemish, for which principall and annual rents dew thervpon they have promised to give me ther declarations they are and shall be comptable; and, right honorable, I intreat ye will be pleased to let me farther vnderstand what mor I should doe thairin. Right honorable, his Majestie is highly concerned for the royall borrowes, and withall is very desirous that ye would caus the contract with the toune of Campheer to be exactlie observed, in ordor to quhich I am most ready to obey your directions, and the magistrats of Campheer and I have agreed that they shall send a sufficient convoy to Leith road against the 20 of September nixt, in our stile, that all ships whoe carry staple goods may be acquented to be in readines and to carry ther staple goods to the port of Campheer and not to goe any wher els. If your honors think not this a fit season, betuixt and that tyme ye may advyse me how yow would have it altered, as alsoe to what other fixed dyets for sending of convoyes your honors shall judge most convenient for the advantadge of trade; and, right honorable, by all means I shall endeavour my outmost to answer my trust and the good oppinion your honors in yours are pleased to expres of me.

Right honorable, the staple cannot be dewlie keept without legallie established factors whoe have found sufficient caution and are admitted according to law. Ther are non soe qualified at present, either in Zealand or Holland. Your honors by your act of the 17 of July last, intituled Concerning factors, took care to provyd for the interim till your nixt generall convention, soe that act in it self expyres in July nixt, and nothing wes done thervpon, the interruption of the staple by the arreist discouraging

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter from the conservator to the royall borrowes.

all from entering factors, wherfor I intreat your honors may be pleased to renew and enlarge your former act as ye think fitt that I may be in capacity to serve the nation and the staple. As also, I intreat that a comittie with whom I may correspond not only as to admitting of factors but as to all other things relaiting to the staple, may be appoynted, for wee need a minister, a master of the conserjarie house, etc.; as alsoe, right honorable, this comittie may be impowred to call befor them William Gordoun, or any other person they think fitt to caus cite, in respect I have not cited William Gordoun to appear befor your nixt generall convention as your honors requyred me in yours, for ther wes bot 30 free dayes to the first of July efter yours cam to my hand; besyds, I wes wnwilling to furnish him with any occasion of being now absent when he should pay his bills. I am not much disposed to speak to any mans disadvantage tho never soe trew, wherfor I shall only say in generall, I assure and for many weighty reasons can fullie satisfie your honors, unles William Gordoun mend his manners yow will not allow nor can I admit him to be a factor, and this for my trust and office obleidges me to tell your honors. Ther are two young men whoe have bein speaking to me to be admitted factors, one is ane Aberdeen's man, Robert Pantoun, whoe seims aboundantly capable and offers satisfieing caution. I remember two sureties he offered, Henry Pantoun of Hiltoun and Alexander Galloway, merchant in Aberdeen. Ther is another young man whoe inclynes alsoe to be a factor, John Hamiltoun, at present pairtiner with Alexander Carstairs, merchant at Rotterdam. He is brother german to Claud Hamiltoun of Barns in Rhenfrew, and, being of good freinds and very capable too, noe doubt will find unquestionable caution. I desyre your honors directions heirin that wee may haue some what lyke the face of a staple. Right honorable, I will not trouble your honors now with any accompt what and which way my dewes fall short near a thousand gilders of the 300 lib. sterling ye are pleased to allow me, viz., for the last year from the 1° Apryll 1691 to Apryll 1692. I must tell your honors the contention and contumacie of William Gordoun, at Campheer and of James Gordoun at Rotterdam, and a few whom they influence, is the caus heirof, for since March wes a year I have received nothing from William Gordoun and from James Gordoun since that tyme I received only 120 gilders, and I suppose ther may be at least sex or

DUNDEE. July 1692.

Letter from the conservator to the royall borrowes.

seven hundred gilders of conservators dewes in ther hands and they both are most obstinat in refusing to pay. At Campheer ther are not soe many of our nation as to make a court to pas sentance on him though I haue laid on ane arreist, and at Rotterdam I have not soe full power as at Campheer, and it is not reasonable the borrowes should be burthened with any cellary soe far as they have quherwith to satisfie, quherfor if I can doe noe better, I intreat I may be impowred to cit them befor the comittie to be appoynted for the bussines of the staple that they may be brought to ordor. I most intreat from your honors ane extract of any acts which pas in your generall or particular conventions which relait to my office seing by them I am to regulat my self, and on all occasions I shall be very ready and very reall in testifieing my faithfulnes and diligence in all the concerns of the royall borrowes, and especiallie as to what is by your honours comitted to, right honorable, right worshipfull, and right worthie, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur*: ANDREW KENNEDY. Campheer, June $\frac{10}{20}$1692.

Right honorable, I have sent Mr John Buchan a not of som extraordinary debursments by me and expenss for the royall borrowes quhich I doubt not ye will take into your consideration.

Letter from the royall borrowes in answer to the conservators letter.

Much honored Sir,—Yours of the $\frac{10}{20}$ cam to us at the sitting doun of this convention, wherin wee perceave your care with his Majestie and toune of Campheer to get the arreist taken off our merchants effects, for the which wee haue receaved his Majesties gracious letter and the magistrats of Campheers, and doeth and have resolved and wryt accordingly to Campheer that wee will obleidge our merchants to keep the saids articles with the said toune soe far as is possible for them to doe in this tyme of war. The coppie of ther letter wee send yow hear inclosed to the which refers yow. As to these two obligations to the poor yow wryt of, wee desyre yow to acquent our comittie at Edinburgh (whoe is to correspond with yow in what is neidfull) whoe are the granters of these bonds, to whom payable, and how they com to have ther oune bonds in ther oune hands as we suppose. As to the factors yow wryt is wanting ther, wee have recived for the samen Robert Pantoun, Gilbert Stewart, and Thomas Grahame, which have found caution for ther fidelity and trust, and John Hamiltoun whoe is to find caution to our comitty. As to William

Gordoun, by our act he is appoynted to be cited, and James Gordoun, if yow think fitting, that he or they may appear befor our comittie at (*blank ;*) against which tyme yow are to send all that yow have to say against him or any other of our people ther, and that soe fully as yow or they can. As for what your dewes fall short of your expectation, blaime not us, for yow shall want noe assistance from us in causing all to pay according to our acts ; and for the better accompleishing the samen, by our act yow are appoynted in your absence to have your deput at Campheer. For your accompt presented by Mr Buchan, the convention have delayed it till they meet with yourself or a mor opportun tyme. Wee make noe doubt bot yow know that in many artickles the toun of Campheer hath brock with us, quhich we judge yow have and will signifie to tham, and that in tyme coming they will sie to obtemperat the same ; and now particularly in this tyme of war it is the speciall desyre of the convention that they be carefull to send to the road of Leith two convoyes, weell maned, twyse in the year, consisting of 30 gunes apice, to witt, against the midle of September and the midle of March ; and the saids two convoys both to attend thair 20 dayes every tyme for conducting our ships saif to Holland, and that they furnish yow with the samen or the lyk convoys back to Scotland accordingly ; and this yow are not to faill to signifie to the magistrats of Campheer, the quhich the Kings Majestie is acquented with, and alsoe the magistrats of Campheer in our letter to tham. All quhich, with quhat els concerns the royall borrowes, wee recomend to your care and remains, Sir, your very humble servant. *Sic subscribitur :* JA. FLETCHER, P. Dundie 15 July 1692.

DUNDER. July 1692.

Letter from the royall borrowes in answer to the conservators letter.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *appointed by the* 21 *act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 24th August 1692.

24 August 1692.

Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Invernes and Dumbarton. Sederunt.

The committee, referring to the 17th act of last general convention, agreed to the admission of John Hamiltoun to be a factor at the staple port of Campheer and accepted of the caution of James Hamiltoun of Hutchison and William Hamiltoun of Orbistoun, — the latter in lieu of Claud Hamiltoun formerly proposed.

Act, Hamiltoun, factor.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1693.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Michael Allan, dean of gild and John Pringle, lister; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, Alexander Walker; Stirling, John Dicke; Linlithgow, William Heggins; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Andersone; Aire, John Moore; Hadingtoun, Mr James Lauder; Dysart, Alexander Swintoun; Kirkcaldie, Henry Oswald; Montross, James Milne; Coupar, Sir Archibald Muire; Anstruther Easter, James Lawsone; Dumfreis, Robert Johnstoun; Inverness, John Barbour; Bruntysland, John Rutherfoord; Innerkeithing, Henry Andersone; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Irving, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Thomas Porteous; Pittenweem, James Cook; Dumfermling, John Chalmer; Selkirk, James Mitchellhill; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Lanerk, Robert Hunter; Elgin, William King; Peiples, Robert Forrester; Carraill, William Crawfurd; Culross, Mr William Erskin; Bamff, Walter Stewart; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Northberwick, Sir Thomas Stewart; Lauder, George Walker; Quensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Inverarie, Hugh Broun; Fortross, Daniel Sympson. [Twenty seven burghs *absent*].

4 July 1693.

Presses.

1. Sir John Hall of Dunglas, baronet, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Reviseing commissions.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions and report.

Excuseing Smalet.

3. On the application of "Master James Smalet, commissioner for Dumbartoun, that he hade necessary adoe, being obleidged to goe to the west," the convention excused him from attendance.

Commissions approved.

4. Approved of the commissions, objections to some of them being waived.

Oath of alledgiance, etc.

5. The commissioners of the royall burrowes, ther clerk and his servands who officiats under him, and the agent of the royall burrowes, did, conforme to the act of parliament for tackeing the oath of alledgiance and assurrance, take and signe the said oath of alledgance and subscryve the assurrance in presence of the conventione. Followes the oath of alleadgiance: I (*blank*) doe sincerely promish and swear that I will be faithfull and bear true alleadgiance to ther Majesties King William and Queen Mary, soe help me God. Followes the assurrance:—I (*blank*) doe, in the sincerity of my heart, assert, acknowledge, and declaire that ther Majesties King William and Queen Mary are the only lawfull undoubted Soveraignes of this realme, as weell *de jure*, that is of right, King and

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1693.

Oath of alledgiance, etc.

Queen, as *de facto*, that is in the possessione and exercise of the government; and therfore I doe sincerely and faithfullie promise and engage that I will, with heart and hand, life and goods, mantain and defend ther Majesties title and government against the late King James and his adherents and all other enemies who either by open or secret attempts shall disturb or disquyet their Majesties in the possessione and exercise thereof. *Sic subscribitur:* JOHN HALL, preces, [etc.]

Generall comitty appoynted.

6. The convention appoints the commissioners wnderwrittin to be a generall comitty to considder all things that shall happen to come in before the convention, viz., Edinburgh, [and sixteen other burghs,] whereof seven to be a quorum, and with power to the said generall comitty to subcomitt affaires as they shall think fitt.

Heads of missive continued.

7. Continued, and appointed to be heads of next missive, articles referring to qualifications of commissioners, stopping gifts and monopolies, bridge of Dumbarton, manufacture of old broad cards, easing Glasgow and other burghs in the tax roll.

Report of commissioner of Edinburgh.

8. The commissioner for Edinburgh reported that, conforme to the second article of the missive, James Young, late surveyor of Dunfreice, haveing procured ane gift under the Kings hand for being generall surveyer of the bullion through the wholl kingdome of Scotland, with power to make open doore and other places patent, and haveing presented the same to be past in exchequer it was by the intrest and moyand of the lord provost of Edinburgh stoped and delayed, which the conventione approves and gives them ther hearty thanks for ther care and dilligence therin, and recomends to them the stopeing of any other gift that may tend to the prejudice of the state of borrowes.

Act anent Greenock.

9. The commissioners of Perth and Stirling having, conform to the 19th act of the general convention in July 1692, visited the burgh of barony of Greenock, gave in a signed report of the trade and condition of the burgh, which being considered the convention remitted to the agent "to setle with the laird of Greenock or the said burgh as to ther trade and quota to be payed be them as he can best agree."

Anstruther Easter and Sir Philip Enster.

10. Having heard the report of the provost of Edinburgh and the commissioner of Dumbarton of their communing with Sir Philip Enster in relation to the difference between him and the burgh of Anstruther Easter, the convention appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Coupar, Dumbarton and Queensferrie to meet and endeavour to adjust the differences.

5 July 1693.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1693.

Curus and Enster Easter.

11. The convention "having considdered the commissiones given in by the comunities of the burghs of Curus and Enster Easter, and the saides commissiones being illegall and contrarie to the plateform," they, for several reasons, allowed the commissioners to sit and vote, with this provision that the eases in the tax roll allowed these burghs by last general convention shall in future be set apart for their bygone missive dues till the same be completely paid.

Bonds of factors to be appointed.

12. The bonds of caution of the factors admitted by the general convention at Dundee not having been reported to this meeting it was ordered that the bonds be produced to the lord provost or clerk of the royal burghs before 15th September next and laid before next general convention.

Pantoun, factor, his bond.

13. One of the cautioners of Robert Pantoun produced the bond granted in terms of his act of admission as factor.

Discbargeing factors not admitted.

14. It being represented that there are several persons acting as factors in Holland without being admitted by the royal burghs or caution received for the faithful discharge of their office, the convention appointed the conservator to fine and punish them conform to the acts and particularly the sixth article of the conservator's instructions.

Anent minister of Campheer.

15. The convention takeing to ther consideratioune the fitnes of Mr Thomas Hog, present minister to the English congregation at Delf, to be minister at Campheir, and the conservators recomendatione in his favours, doe therfore recomend to the magistrats of Edinburgh to take the advyce of the presbitrie of Edinburgh thairanent and to recomend to them that the said Mr Thomas Hog, or some other qualified fitt persone, be called to be minister at Campheir with all convenience.

Conservator and depute, consergerie houses.

16. The conventione considering that its prejudiciall to the steple port at Campheir that the conservator or his deputs does not receid ther with ther family, doe therefore, for severall weightie reasones, appoynt the conservator, or his depute, in all tyme coming to reseid at the said steple port, conforme to the third article of the conservators instructiones subscryved be him in the borrow register, and recomends to the said conservator to find out some fitt qualified persone to be master of the consergerie houses for whose faithfullnes and fidelity in the discharge of his office the conservator is to be answerable to the royall borrowes.

Cromarty.

17. The committee appointed by the 22nd act of last general convention not having met, the convention of new appointed the provost of Edinburgh, Coupar, Dumbarton and Queensferry as a committee to commune with the lord viscount of Tarbat anent the affairs of the burgh of Cromarty.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1693.

18. The conventione appoynts a comitty of ther own number to attend and waite [on] Master Johnstoun, esquire, principall secretarie of state, and to represent to him that he would be pleased to acquaint ther Majesties of the absolute necessity of two men of warr to cruise up the Scots coasts for security of ther trade. Application for two men of war.

Anent the burgh of Fortross.

19. The conventione haveing considered the petition given in be the burgh of Fortross and the comitties report, mentioning that the shyre of Ross doe detaine of the burgh of Fortross ther small burgage lands, the said comitty did advise a petitione which they saw and considered to be given to the parliament theranent, which the commissioners of the shyre of Ross being ordained to see and answer, and the said comitty haveing mett with the saides commissioners and comoned upon the said affair, they find that the commissioners can not deny but that the saids burgage lands should belong to the burgh and pay its proportione of cess to the burgh, but the commissioners of the shyre of Ross being now in possessione are not willing to quyet the same, the comitty being of opinion that the royall burrowes should concurr in the said affair and that they should grant warrant to the agent of the burrows to manage and deburse monie therin; which petition and report of the comitty being considered by the conventione, they approve therof and declaires they will concurr in the said affair when it comes before the parliament in assisting the burgh of Fortross, and if the said act pass in parliament in favours of the said burgh they appoynt the agent to pay the expenses therof.

Ratification of sett of Inverness.

20. On the petition of the commissioner of Inverness, the convention ratified, approved, and confirmed the decreet of sett of the magistrates, guildry, and trades of the burgh of Inverness, dated 11th September 1676, which was approved of by the convention in July 1677, "but, by the negligence of the then commissioner fore Invernese, there was no ratificatione of the said decreet of sett obtained, which ought to have been done." The convention authorised the clerk to record the decreet and ratification after this convention.*

Dewes for corne not to be exacted.

21. The convention discharged the conservator to exact any duty on corn exported from this kingdom, there being no warrant for the exaction.

Agents accompts.

22. Approved of the agent's account of disbursements from July 1692 to July 1693, extending to £7260, 16s. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions.

Burghs, missive dewes.

23. Ordained the agent to report to next general convention what diligence he had done against the burghs deficient in payment of their missive dues.

* See Appendix.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693.

7 July 1693.

Trede of unfree burghs.

24. Recommended to "Mr John Buchan, ther agent, as haveing right by acts of borrows and parliament* for disposeing upon the trade of unfree burghs dureing the tyme mentioned in the forsaids acts made theranent to take effectuall course for restraineing and hindring all the inhabitants in burghs of barronies and regalities to transport out of ther own prescints any forraigne goodes unsold unless to publict faires, and that dureing the space of his tack."

Committee, conservator, Campheer, factor.

25. Appointed a committee to answer a letter from the conservator and to write the magistrates of Campheir complaining that notwithstanding of the contract and the several letters by the burghs to them there are not sufficient convoys sent; and also with power to consider the petition of William Gordon, and to ask the conservator to report, before 15th September next, what he has to say against his being admitted a factor.

Conservator, residence at staple port.

26. The conventione upon recomendation from Master Johnstoun, principall secretarie of state, dispences with the conservators not receiding at

* By the act of parliament dated 14 June 1693 (c. 51), the estates of parliament ratified the contract between the burghs and John Buchan referred to in the 24th act of convention dated 13 July 1692, and ordained "that sicklike execution shall pass against the burghs of regalities, baronies and others for inbringing the proportions of the burthen to be payed by them for relief of the royall burroughs, which any of them hath already, or hereafter shall agree unto, in consideration of the benefite of trade communicate to them, sicklike and in the same manner as is usuall for inbringing of the cess payable to their Majesties by the royall burroughs." It was also ordained that after the expiry of the contract "the forsaid communication of trade shall continue and be perpetuate unto the saids burghs of regalities, baronies, and others, upon the paying or relieveing the royall burroughs of a just proportion of the hundred pound of the taxt roll imposed upon them by act of parliament effeirand and correspondent to their trade, and which proportion shall be equally condescended upon by the said royall burroughs at their first generall meeting after expiration of the said contract, and therafter as often as they meet for altering of their taxt roll; and in case any mistake or inequality shall happen in the adjusting the said proportion to be payed by the burghs of regalities, baronies and others, conform to the trade as aforesaid, then and in that case the said burghs are hereby allowed to apply themselves to the parliament for regulateing and determineing the forsaid quota according as they shall see just, and upon the division swa to be made of the said quota then the said royall burroughs are to distribute and proportion the samen amongst the saids burghs of regalities, baronies, and others, according to their respective trades. And their Majesties, with consent forsaid, doe hereby strictly discharge all persons whatsomeuer to exercise any kind of trade under the penalties contained in the act of parliament, except burgesses and indwellers in royall burroughs and their free ports, by consent of their burroughs to which they belong, and these who pay their proportion of the said quota to be payed by the burghs of regalities and other burghs aforesaid. And to the effect that the burthen may be equall and reasonable, and that none be exempted, their Majesties, with advice and consent forsaid, do authorize, appoint and ordaine any of these who have the benefite of the communication to putt all acts of parliament made in favours of the burghs royall in full execution against all such unfree traders within their own bounds and jurisdictions, as shall not undertake for and pay a proportion of the said quota which the burroughs are to be relieved of, and to apply the fynes and penalties to their own use and behoof; likeas the masters or magistrates of the towns to whom the trade is to be communicate are hereby authorized to appoint stent masters upon oath within their towns for laying on the burthen upon the traders and others who have benefite by the trade."

the staple port in Campheir to the next generall conventione, notwthstanding of the sexteen act of this generall convention, and declaires they will take under ther consideratione that which concerns the second part of the secretaries recomendatione at the next generall conventione and which letter lyes in the clerks hands. EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693. Conservator, residence at staple port.

26*a*. The conventione considering the sewerall incroatchments and abusses committed by perpetuating of magistrats in the sewerall royall burghs, doe therfore recomend to each burgh to send ther commissioners sufficiently instructed to the next generall conventione of burrowes that no magistrats in any burgh of this kingdome shall containow longer then two yeares at once. Magistrats.

27. Ordained that the condition of the burghs of Inverary, Culross, Lochbaven, Annan, and Fortross be heads of next general missive. Condition of certain burghs.

28. The convention appointed that at the sitting down of the next session of parliament, the particular burghs should send their commissioners to vote, treat, and conclude anent all matters concerning trade and the interest of the state of burrowes. Trade and state of burghs.

29. The conventione haveing heard and considered the petitione given in by Alexander Stevinsone, merchand in Edinburgh, mentioning that your petitioner haveing sent the ship, Barbara Sympson, Jack, master, to Campheir, aboord of whom was 32 packs and ane half belonging to John Ormestoune and alleadged consigned to William Pantoun, staple factor, which goodes were arreisted in the master hands by John and James Gordons, and after a long debeate before the conservator court it was ordored by them that the goodes be put in the hands of John Hamiltoune, factor, and the master discharged; notwithstanding whereof the said William Pantoun did arreist the said ship for not delyverie of the packs to him and hes detained the ship from prosecuteing her intended voyage to Noroway notwithstanding of sewerall protests taken against him for coast, skaith, and damnadge, and a sentence of the conservator court declaireing the said arreistment to be illegall. [The convention appointed Pantoun to be cited to answer before the committee appointed by the 25th act of this convention; and instructed the conservator to apply to the States of Zysland for loosing the arrestment.] Act in favour of Alexander Stevinsone.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693.

Clerk.

30. Allowed to the clerk, for his extraordinary pains, a gratuity of £400 Scots, "or threttie ginnies."

Sir James Kennedies relict.

31. Having considered a petition by the relict of the deceased Sir James Kennedie, late conservator, for herself and on behalf of her five children, the convention allowed her £20 sterling.

James Nasmith and clerks servant.

32. Ordered payment to James Nasmith of £15 sterling, and to the clerk's servant of 100 merks, being gratuities in addition to their salaries.

Payments.

33. Appointed the agent to pay to John Veatch of Daick, presenter of the signatures, and to Alexander Dunlop, clerk to the burghs equies, gratuities of £60 Scots each; to Sir William Campbell, six rex dollars; and other sums to the macers and burgh officer.

Burghs, missive dews.

34. The commissioner of Aberdeen protested that that burgh should be free of payment of all missive dues resting by any other burgh, whereupon the commissioners of other ten burghs adhered to the protest.

Dissolving convention.

35. Dissolved the present convention, and appointed the next meeting to be held at Edinburgh in July 1694.

Unlaws for absence.

36. Unlawed the absent burghs in £100 Scots each.

CORRESPONDENCE between the Royal Burghs and Magistrates of Campheer and the Conservator.

Letter from the royall burrowes to the magistrats of Campheer.

My Lords,—By your letter the eighteen day of June, ane thousand six hundreth and nyntie two yeares, wee hade reason to expect such convoyes as might give security to our fleits. The commissioners from the sewerall burrowes at this present conventione complain that your lordships gaue no return to our last nor affoorded the convoyes judged necessary by them, which was two frigats of thretty guns the peice, sufficiently maned, as necessary at leist for the security of ther ships. As wee, carefull on our part to observe the contract unviolable, soe your lordships will not suppose wee can containow in it if our fleits be not allowed sufficient convoyes. Wee doe not love to be uneasie to yow but complaints are given in to ws by sewerall merchants, particularly by John Rutherfoord, master of ane Bruntisland ship, who was taken within ane league of the convoy who did not endeavour his reskew, and wee aquaint your lordships that our merchants will not be prevailed with to observe the staple port unless sufficient convoyes be affoorded seasonablie. Hitherto they ascryve the preservation of ther goodes and ships only to the providence of God and not to your convoyes. Therfore wee will not doubt your sending sufficient convoyes and that they keep the exact tyme

of coming to the rod of Leith, against the midle of September and March yearly, dureing the warr, and that yee give them strick and particular ordors to lye twentie dayes allanerlly and then to saill, wind and weather serveing, and not to be induced upon the application of any privat merchant or particular burgh to stay any longer. Wee wryte at length to our conservator to wait upon your lordships and to give yow information of this and other affairs, wherin both the stat of the royall burrowes and your lordships are concerned. This, by ordor of the royall burrowes, is signed by, my lords, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur;* JOHN HALL, P.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693.

Letter from the royall burrowes to the magistrats of Campheer.

Much honoured,—Wee receaved yours dated at Roterdam the twentie day of June j^{m} vj^{c} nynty thrie yeires. As to the minister, wee haue desired the magistrats of Edinburgh to apply to the presbyterie of Edinburgh for setleing Mr Thomas Hog or any other sufficient minister at the staple port, and recomends to yow to speak to the magistrats of Campvere for repairing the kirk therof. As for the master of the consergerie house, wee allow and appoynt yow to provide a qualified man for whom yow are to be comptable. Wee have wryttin to the magistrats of Camphere, a coppie of our leter is heirwith sent to yow. Wee desire that ye be arnest with them to furnisht sufficient convoyes in the terms of our leter, and that they give particular concerneing the tyme of the convoyes lyeing in the road of Leith, for former convoyes lyeing beyond the tyme hes extraordinarly prejudged some of our merchands by the heating and spoiling of our cornes. Wee are glad that your self and family are recovering from the sickness yee have been afflicted with, and wee recomend to yow to call for John and William Gordons and enquyre particularly of them anent the deceast Thomas Cuninghames monie which is in ther hands, and to use your outmost endeavours for recoverie therof, and to send ane accompt of your dilligence to the provost of Edinburgh to be comunicat by him to the next generall convention. Wee have also appoynted our agent to send ane exact coppie of all the acts made in this generall convention which will direct yow in our affairs, as also ane coppie of the act of parliament for takeing and swearing the oath of alleadgiance and subscryveing the assurrance, wherof wee doubt not but ye will be carefull. Wee, upon representatione made by some of our merchants, haue perused the table of conservator dewes and find that ther is no deuty to be

Letter from the royal borrows to the conservator.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693.

Letter from the royall burrows to the conservator.

exacted for cornes exported from Scotland to the Netherlands but only for cornes imported to Holland from the Baltick and other forraigne nationes in Scots vessalls. As to this wee referr yow to our act made theranent wherin yow are obleidged to exact no further deuty upon cornes exported, and that yow send ane exact accompt of what yow uplifted this last yeir to the next generall conventione. As also yow are appoynted to report what yow have to lay to the charge of William Gordoun why he should not be admitted factor upon sufficient caution in respect he made application to this convention for his admission, and the convention haveing ordored yow peremptory to give ane return to the comitty who are appointed to meet at Edinburgh the fyfteenth day of September nixt upon that affair, that the merchants of Edinburgh and his imployers, and who give testimonie of his fidelity in ther concerns comitted to him, may not be leised or hurt in ther sewerall interests. We hade a bill given in by Alexander Steivinsone complaineing of the abuses comitted by Robert Pantoun, factor, to which wee referr yow to our act made by this convention theranent, and upon application made to us by Charles Devie, merchant in Edinburgh, that the value of his goods were arreisted by your ordor, the convention has appoynted yow to louse the said arreistment since he hes found sufficient caution acted in our borrow bookes to mak the value of the goodes furthcomeing as accords of the law. It is also represented that ther is ane absolut necessity for ane anchor to be sunk in the road of Campheir, right oposite to the entrie of the harbour, with a boy therupon, by which ships may sail furth to the road with saifty in tyme of ane easterly wind, conforme to the staple contract. Much honoured, signed, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* JOHN HALL, *preces.*

Conservators letter to the royall borrows.

Right Honourable, right worshipfull, and right worthy. — Your honours leter to me of the 15th of July last was in all things exactly obeyed, and in November therafter I wrote at large to my lord provost of Edinburgh, Sir John Hall, as to what concerned the setleing of a minister and master of the consergerie house at Camphere, as also concerning these bonds dew to the poor of the Scots congregatione ther, but the contraversie concerning the magistracie of Edinburgh falling in was the cause of my lord provosts not conveening the comittie of the royall borrowes and why I hade no answer. Their is a great need of a minister, and a weell qualified one would be a considerable encouragement to the

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693.

Conservators letter to the royall borrows.

staple, and hitherto I have taken care dewly to provyde a minister for the congregation so long as ther was any Scots ships at the port, and thereby keept the stipend dew by the magistrats of Camphere to the Scots minister in use of payment for defraying the charge of supplying the congregatione. I lyikwayes wrote to my lord provost of Edinburgh concerning a particular minister and intreated the comities directions and instructions thereabout, but these not comeing I could proceed no further, and now that minister is otherwise disposed of so that wee cannot expect him, wherfor I haue been considering where to find one qualified and fitted for the place; and seeing ministers at present are so scare at home I have cast my thoughts upon one in this countrey who is a person of great pietie, good learning, sound judgement, and unquestionable loyaltie. He is a Scotsman and setled minister in Holland, but his congregation is so small that his usefull talents there are in a sort altogether hide, and hade I your honours allowance and instructions for giveing him a call, etc., I doubt not but wee might haue him and be very happie in haveing of him; quherfore I intreat your honours answer as to this with all possible expeditione, for besides many other weighty considerationes wee cannot soe weell clame as seek these two bonds of the poors mony now in the hands of the magistrats of Camphere till wee have a minister and a consistory who properlie have power to enquire after them. The magistrats of Camphere are not debtors in these two bonds, but the steats of Zealand are debtors for the one in four hundreth pound, Fleemish, and the toun of Flushing is debtors for the other of three hundreth pound, Flemish; and those two bonds being in the custody of Thomas Cuninghame, late factor at Camphere, who being ane elder of the consergorie house the tyme of his decease, his wyfe being a Dutch woman, it was thought fit they should be taken out of her hands, and debeat falling betwixt Hugh Wallace, then agent for the royall borrowes, and at Camphere, and ane Mr Andrew Skeen, each contending to have them, they wer depositat in the hands of the magistrats of Campheire who put them in the custodie of ther secretaries or clerk from whom neither the magistrats nor the Scots consistory could get them up for many yeares till in the moneth of September last the secretaries delyvered them up to the magistrats and then the magistrats gave me ane authentick extract out of thair records that they haue them in ther possessione

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693.

Conservators letter to the royall borrows.

and that they belonged to the poor of the Scots congregatione. As for a master to the consergorie house, it is most necessary, and the setleing one therin belonging to your honours, all I could doe to permitt one for the tyme to accomodat our countrey men, and haveing litle choice here I behooved to take such as I could get but wish your honors would provide one mor sufficient or let me have directions and power to doe somewhat thairin. I intended to have waited on your honours this July enshewing to receave your comands particularly, but it haveing pleased the Lord to visit my self and family with some sickness I could not. However, nothing to the outmost of my power to serve the intrest of your honors concerns shall be wanting nor shall I spare paines and expences as your intrests require. With my first strength, after my beginning to recover, I went last week to the Hague about a concerning and leading case which I hope shall come to a good issue. A vessell from Mussellburgh loadened with wheat and barley, in which some merchands in Edinburgh are concerned, comeing from Rotterdam at the very mouth of the Mouse was taken by a caper belonging to Flushing, carried thither as a prize, her cargo they took out, together with the seamens provisiones, on designe to draw them from possessione, all which was done without bringing the matter to any legall hearing, quherupon I gave in diverse memorials to the stats generall whose resolutione was ordoring the admirality of Zealand to examine and report the mater to them. Applications were accordingly [made] to the admirality of Zealand, but meeting with nothing but delayes, by new memorials I importuned ther highnesses and mightyness and in privat informed and solicited all the great men in particular. At length the capers pretended that Scots ships was bound for France and that the ransome breif was no reall thing but a bussiness conceived in France as a passport, to which, by memorial, I made reply that I could produce letters of advice to sewerall merchants heir that such a merchant was comeing to Rotterdam with bills of loadning to them together with a breif of ensurrance at Amstradam of the ship and cargo, as also a charter pairty narraiting the wholl, so that ther wuld be no possible cheat in the caice, and for the ransome it fell now so high by detaineing the ship a moneth, in quhich tyme the pryce of the carns is fallen a 3d., and by carieing out the cargo and hotness of the season it is embasseled another third, so that the ransome equals if not exceeds the value and cargo, and it were very hard to

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1693.

Conservators letter to the royall borrows.

lose the ship and cargo and pay the ransome which was so far from being a pretended ransome that I frankly offered to let the caper have the ship and cargo provyding he would releive our pledge. May it pleas your honours, this being the first Scots ship taken after this maner I judged myself obleidged to be at more then ordinary payns about it as being of concern to the wholl nation, that a bade precedent might be prevented, for these Zealanders have not only many Sweeds, Danes and Dutch, but also four or fyve English ships in the lyck circumstances quhich are not yeit cleared, albeit some of tham have been detayned one and some two yeares. However I obtained lettres to the admirality of Zealand and to the ower of the caper to restore ship and cargo with all damnadges and expences quhich I dispatched away yesterday and now hope and expect good success. Your honours in your letter to me are pleased to delay the considering account of my extraordinary expences presented be Mr John Buchan to our meeting or a more convenient tyme. I nothing doubt your honours justice and generosity nor shall any delay discourage me from my duty in serveing your concerns for the futur, nor shall I at this tyme make any complaints as to the payment of my dewes, but I shall only take liberty to say it were a very convenient tyme for me now, no man leiveing here remembering of a generall dearth of all things necessary for the lyfe of men as hath been and is this tyme of ware, so that when all my ordinaries and extraordinaries are fully payed, tho I cannot complain, yeit I can assure your honours they will hardly be a subsistence for me and my family, quherfore I expect your honours will now take that litle bussiness to consideratione and doe something thairin. Quhatever concernes the royall borrowes shall be my cair to employ my outmost dilligence with all zeal and faithfulnes in ansuer to that trust your honours reposed in, right honourable, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* ANDREW KENNEDIE. Roterdam June $\frac{23}{30}$ 1693.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *appointed by the 25th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 28 November 1693.

28 November 1693.

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hadingtoun and Inverara. Soderunt.

EDINBURGH. 28 November 1693.

Letter from the committee to the conservator.

The same day, ther being ane petition given in to the comity of the royall borrowes by Mr William Grahame, merchant in London, representing the procedour of your court in Campheir by arresting and giveing warrand for consigning in ordor to seall some effects of his and one Joseph Ormeistoun of considerable value, we have seen and considered the extracts of your decreits, quherof wee shall have no opinion at this distance further then to say that it is not the custome by the law of Scotland, nor by the practique of merchants heir, to sequestrat goods becaus the first owner was debtor to the arreisters debtor; and in this case it appears not to ws that the arreisters have instructed that James Gordon was indebted to them, nor that Joseph Ormeistoun was indebted to James Gordon. The comitty is verie tender of the reputatione of your court, and the rather that quhat is done in this affair was in your absence and without your knowledge or approbatione, which obleidged the comity to goe as great a length as possible to accomodat the affair in thir tearmes, that ye will be pleased to cause appretiat the goods sequestrat and delyver the samen to Mr Robert Pantoun, or any haveing Mr Grahames ordor, upon ther finding cautione that the value as they are appretiat shall be furthcomeing to those who hes best right; the arreisters, John and William Gordons, on the other hand, finding the lycke caution to be lyable for the damnadges alreaddie sustained or to be sustained in caice any be found at the event of Mr Grahames proces, as the samen shall be determined by the royall borrowes or your court; and with all seeing it was represented to the said comity by the Gordons factor heir that John Gordon was arreisted at London be Mr Grahame for the same caus and hade found cautione there for 15,000 lib., starling, it is thair opinion that those to whom the goods are delivered shall in name of Mr Grahame pas frae the said English cautione upon the Gordouns finding cautione in your books for the damnadges in maner forsaid, but if the saids John and William Gordouns refuse to find cautione then the goods are to be delyvered to Mr Grahams ordor after appretiatione as above, without any caution; and in caice at the event of the actione ather befor the borrowes or before your court they think proper to persew the damnadges ye are to give all the speedie and just repairatione that is requisit and usuall in the lyck cases. The comity expects ye will comply with this thair desire, which is all from, Sir, your most humble servant. Signed in

name and at the desire of the said comity, JOHN HALL. Edinburgh 28th November 1693. EDINBURGH. 28 November 1693.

Agreed to the admission of William Gordon, merchant in Campheir, as a conjunct staple factor at Campheer with John Gordoun his cousin. Gordon, factor.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Hugh Blair, dean of gild, and Alexander Thomson, conveener; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirling, John Dick; Linlithgow, Jeremia Huntar; St. Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, Hugh Crawfurd; Hadingtoun, HughMaccall; Kirkcaldie, John Millar; Montrose, Robert Arbuthnot; Coupar, Sir Archibald Mure; Dumfreis, Robert Johnstoun; Inverness, James Dumbar; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spittell; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Alexander Young; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Pitenweem, James Cook; Dumfermling, John Chalmers; Selkirk, James Mitchell; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smollet; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stevine; Carraill, William Crawfurd; Tayn, William Ross; Bamff, Patrick Russell; Forfar, Alexander Jaffrey; Northberwick, John Hoome; Lauder, Charles Lauder; Innerara, Hugh Brown. (Thirty-three burghs *blank*.) EDINBURGH. 3 July 1694. Commissioners.

3 July 1694.

1. Sir John Hall of Dunglas, baronet, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected presses. Presses.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Commissions.

3. The oath of allegiance taken and the assurance subscribed by those members who had not previously done so in that capacity. Oath of allegiance and assurance.

4. Approved of the commissions except those of Burntisland and Rhenfrew which are not conform to the platform established by the burghs. Commissions approved.

5. Appointed a general committee to consider the missive and all things that shall come before this convention. Generall comity.

6. Continued, and appointed to be heads of next missive, articles referring to qualifications of commissioners, stopping monopolies or gifts, Dumbarton bridge, old broad cards, easing of burghs in the tax roll, and the poverty of certain burghs. Heads of missive continued.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1694.

5 July 1694.

Commissioners of Edinburgh's report.

7. The commissioners of Edinburgh reported that James Young, late surveyor of Dumfreis, having procured a gift under the Kings hand for being general surveyor of the bullion through the whole kingdom, the provost of Edinburgh prevented the same from being passed in exchequer; "as also their was great endeavours used by the taxsmen of the inland excyse to obleidge all the merchants in this kingdome to pay sexpence upon the poynt of brandie as if they were retaillers which hes been severall tymes fully heard and debeated befor the lords of exchequer and stands yeit undecided." The convention approved of the report and recommended Edinburgh to endeavour to stop any other gift prejudicial to the burghs.

Staple factors.

8. The clerk reported that he had received from John Hamiltoun and Gilbert Stewart the bonds granted by them as staple factors; and Thomas Grahame who has not yet given in his bond was allowed till 1st November next to do so.

Burgh of Cromarty.

9. The committee appointed by the 17th act of last general convention not having met, the convention of new appointed the provost of Edinburgh, Coupar, Dumbartoun, Queensferrie, Innerkeithing and Innerara to commune with the viscount of Tarbat as to the affairs of the burgh of Cromarty.

Innerara, Falkland.

10. The burgh of Inverara being unable, through poverty and want of trade, to pay their share in the tax roll, and the convention being informed that the burgh of Falkland "who have been for a long time exeimed from bearing any publict burden with the royall borrowes are now in a conditione to pay a proportione," they appointed a committee to inquire into the condition of Falkland, and if it be able to bear a proportion of the tax roll Inverara to be eased of two shillings Scots and in the meantime and till next convention, the agent was instructed to place the two shillings upon the general account of the burghs.

Perth, common clerkship.

11. On the application of the commissioner of Perth, the convention ratified and approved of the gift of the common clerkship of that burgh in favor of Robert Grahame during all the days of his lifetime.

Comity for establishing of staple port.

12. The convention considering that pairt of the conservators leter relateing to the staple port and the terminatione of the contract betuixt the royall borrowes and the toun of Campvere, and it being of great importance to the state of borrowes that all dew tryall and informatione be taken anent the setleing of the staple for the tyme to come, and that it may be necessar to call over the conservator theranent, as also sewerall other things may emerge after tryall which will conduce to the generall advantage of the borrowes, all which requires so great deliberatione as that the samen cannot be done dureing the siting of this present con-

ventione nor is it proper to delay the samen to the next generall conventione, therfor the conventione nominats and appoynts the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundie, Aberdeen, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Kirkcaldie, Montross, Coupar, Inverness and Dumbartoun, to meet as a comitie, wherof seven to be a quorum, after the disolveing of this present conventione, and appoints ther first meeting to be on Monday next at ten acloack, and therafter to adjourn themselves from tyme to tyme as they shall think fitt; with full power to them to take wnder consideratione the wholl affair relateing to the staple port and to receave all inteligence, information and tryall they can have theranent, with what offers shall be made by the touns in Holland and Zealand anent the establishment of the said staple, and in lyck maner with power to them if need beis to call over the conservator and to comon with him theranent, and after all tryall is taken by the said comitie who are heirby impowered to acquaint [twenty-four burghs to meet as a particular convention,] with full power to the said particular conventione to treat, vote, and determine the wholl mater anent the staple and conclud the samen by contract, and to doe everie thing needfull theranent sicklyik and als freely in all respects as the generall conventione might doe therin themselves, which they heirby obleidge themselves to ratifie the next generall conventione.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1694.

Comity for establishing of staple port.

13. The convention haveing considered ane accompt of debursements given in by Mr Andrew Kennedie, present conservator, and that sewerall articles in the said accompt was debursed upon the generall accompt of the royall borrowes and his attending his Majestie and the secretaries of state for takeing of the arreist led by the toun of Campheir on the Scots effects upon the speciall ordor of the royall borrowes, doe therfore, in consideratione of the forsaid accompt produced and considered in presence of the conventione, and his cair and dilligence in prosecuting and attending their affaires in takeing of the forsaid arreist, they appoynt Mr John Buchan, ther agent, to pay to the said Mr Andrew Kennedie the sowme of fyftie pound sterling mony.

Agent to pay £50 to conservator.

14. The convention haveing considered the petition given in by Sir James Oswald of Finiltoune and James Dunlap, collectors, wherby ther is resting of bygane cess by the toun of Cromarty the sowme of two thousand pounds Scots, and in respect they can have no access to the said burgh for payment therof, as being expunged out of the roll of royall burghs

Burgh of Cromarty.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1694.

Burgh of Cromarty.

by acts of parliament and secreit councill, and therfor most have recourse upon the wholl royall borrowes for payment therof, and intends to quarter upon the good town of Edinburgh for the samen if there be not some speedie course taken theranent, do therfore recomend to the comity that is to sit after disolving this present conventione to comon with the said Sir James Oswald and James Dunlap anent what is trewly resting of cess by the said burgh of Cromarty, with full power to them to examine the wholl mater and call for Baillie Walkers report of the caice and conditione of the said burgh, and after full tryall taken of the wholl affair to appoint the agent to pay what shall be found justly resting to them upon the accompt of the said cess.

Burgh of Dysart.

15. Appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Coupar and Dumbartoune to treat with Lord Sinclair in relation to the difference between his lordship and the burgh of Dysart.

Tayn and Dornoch.

16. Appointed certain burghs to visit and report upon the condition of the burghs of Tayn and Dornoch with reference to petitions from these burghs.

Stevensone and Pantoun.

17. Remitted to the committee which is to sit after the dissolving of this convention to settle differences between Alexander Stevenson, merchant in Edinburgh, and Robert Pantoun, merchant in Campheir, referred to in the 29th act of last general convention.

6 July 1694.

Act in favour of Bruntisland.

18. The convention haveing considered the petition given in by the burgh of Bruntjsland and the reasons and causes therin specified, doe therfor appoynt Mr John Buchan, ther agent, to pay three hundreth marks towards the present repairatione of the harbour of the said burgh of Bruntjsland, and appoynts the said money to be payed in to the commissionar of Innerkeithing who is heirby appoynted to be overseer of the repairationes of the said harbour and by whois advice and directione the samen is to be done and to take inspectione of the caice and conditione of the said burgh.

Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, Kennedie.

19. The convention remitts to the comitty who are to sitt after disolveing of this conventione to take wnder ther consideratione the decreit obtained at the instance of George Mackenzie of Rosshaugh, son and air to the deceast Sir George M'Kenzie, late lord advocat, against the royall borrowes, for payment of his bygone pensione resting to him, as also the

proces comenced at the instance of the creditors of the deceast Sir James Kennedie, with full power to the said comity to give instructions to ther agent in defending of the saids proces, or otherwayes to compone and transact with them to the best advantage. EDINBURGH. 6 July 1694. Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, Kennedie.

20. Appointed the burghs of Hadingtoun and Dumbar to inspect and report as to the condition of the burgh of North Berwick, with power to the particular convention if they think fit to advance what money is necessary for the repair of their harbour. Also, appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Dumfreis, Selkirk and Lanark to visit and take trial of "the condition of the burgh of Peeples, and particularly anent the incroachments made be the Duke of Queensberrie in building his park dyks and other absuses." Northberwick and Peeples.

21. The dean of gild of Edinburgh reported that Whytfeild Hayter of London, citizen, and his pairteners, haveing obtained ane act from their Majesties privie councill erecting a manufactory for dressing and collouring all sorts of leather in any place of this kingdome without royalties, declaireing them to have right to all the priviledges of a manufactory, and they haveing a great stock and (as being declared ane manufactory) many imunities, it is to be feared that they may, be export or otherwayes, inhance the trade of skins and leather, to the great hurt and prejudice of the leidges, and more especially of the skinners and others dealeing in skins and leather in royall burghs; which report being considered by the conventione, they grant warrant to the commissionars of Edinburgh and Mr John Buchan, ther agent, in name and behalf of the royall borrowes, to assist and concurr with the incorporation of the Skinners of Edinburgh for preventing and remeading the forsaid inconveniences of the said Whytfeild Hayter inhanceing the trade of the skins and leather of this kingdome, befor any judicatory competent. Act in favour of the skinners of Edinburgh.

22. The convention being credibly informed that ther are sewerall staple factors who are actuall traders and copartners in shipeings, contrar to sewerall acts of borrowes, doe therfor appoynt the conservator to give ane particular accompt of all factors that are traders and copairtners in shiping goeing from Scotland to the staple port, as also appoynts the conservator to make report to the particular conventione of borrowes that is to sitt after disolveing of this present conventione of all factors who have taken and signed the oath of alleadgiance to their Majesties King William and Queen Mary and subscrivit the assurrance. Staple factors.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1694.

Conceaved prayers.

23. The conventione, considering ane act of the generall conventione of borrowes in July 1648 anent conceaved prayers, to be used by all particular or generall conventiones, doe therfor ratifie, approve, and confirme the said act in all the heads, clauses, and articles therof, and recomends to each royall burgh that conceaved prayers be said at all ther meetings of councill in all tyme comeing.

Agent's accompts.

24. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1693 to July 1694, extending to £3844, 11s. 4d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions. The following items are included in the accounts:—

Item, to the secretaries man in the comity attending the secretary anent procureing of ships for secureing the trade, . .	11 li. 12s.
Item, to the Dutch interpreter of the Dutch letter from Campheir,	5 li. 16s.
Item, for a dinner at Leith to the captain of the Zealand convoy, by ordor of the comity, ...	12 li.
Item, to the king's advocat consulting anent the ann of the relicts of ministers in royall burrowes, ...	29 li.
Item, to the chancellors men when the comitty attended his lordship about mantaineing of the two ships of force, . .	5 li. 16s.

Anent the linnen manufactory.

25. The convention haueing taken to ther consideratione that ther is a linnen company seting up in this kingdome, wherof ane considerable pairt is in the hands of English and some of Scots merchants, and that few of the members of the royall borrowes are intressed therin, and it being most important to the royall borrowes that such of them as are willing to imploy ane stock in the linnen trade should joyn together and sett up ane linnen manufactory, aither by them or in conjunction with any others who will concurr with them, therfor and to the effect the forsaid designe may have some effectwall ryse and begining, and that none of the members of the borrows may be excluded, therfor the conventione does heirby recomend to the comity or particular conventione that is to sitt after disolveing of this conventione to meet, comon, and delibrat anent the forsaid linnen manufactory, and to take in and consider what offers and overtures shall be made to them theranent, and to conclude and determine as they shall think convenient in that mater, and as each burgh is heirby advertished to concurr if they think fitt in the forsaid mater so no burgh shall be lyable or bound to joyn in the said manufactory except they be convinced and satisfied that it is there particular intrest to doe the same.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1694.

Pirrats and privateers.

26. The conventione considering the great prejudice which aryses to the tread of this kingdome by the frequent takeing of our ships by pirrats and privateers, and the great and unsupportable loss which all treading merchants did sustaine therby, that if some effectuall course be not taken for preventing therof the tread of the royall borrowes will be intirly distroyed and all merchants discouraged, doe therfore impower the comity or particular conventione of borrowes that are to sitt after disolveing of this conventione to take under ther serious consideratione the most effectwall means for secureing the sea costs from privateers, with full power to them to apply to the secreit councill or the secretaris of state that they may informe their Majesties of the absolut necessities of secureing their trade, that his Majesties give instructions to his commissioner at the siting of the next sessione of parliament that some effectuall course be taken thereanent, and in caice the parliament doe not meet betuixt and the first of January next the conventione grants powar to the said comity to make offer to the government that the state of borrowes are willing and content to furnish ane hundreth and fyfty seamen and pay thair wages for four moneth tyme, the government furnishing three ships of sufficient force with all things necessar for that effect, and that two of those ships may guaird the eastern coasts and one of them guaird the coasts upon the west, and ordains the agent to advance moe as the comity or particular conventione shall ordour to the effect forsaid.

Assessor to royall borrowes.

27. The conventione considering that Sir James Stewart, ther Majesties advocat, hes been verie active in serveing the just intrest of the state of borrowes on all occasiones, both in parliament and privie councill, and assisting them as ther advocat in all caices quherin they are concerned, doe therfor nominat, elect, and choyse the said Sir James Stewart, ther Majesties advocat, to be assessor to the royall borrowes for the year to come, and allowes him fyve hundreth marks of sallarie, to comence from the date heirof and to containow to the next generall conventione.

Burgh of Lanerk.

28. On the petition of the burgh of Lanerk, the convention appointed the burghs of Glasgow and Dumbarton "to meet with George Baillie of Geraswood and doe ther outmost endeavour to settle and adjust the differences betwixt him and the burgh of Lanark," and to report to the committee sitting after the convention, who are to have power to consider and dispose of the matter.

Lauder.

29. Exempted Lauder from attending conventions for three years, it being "a poor and mean burgh and not in a condition to attend the dyets."

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1694.

Agent, £500.

30. Allowed to John Buchan, agent, £500 Scots, "upon the accompt of his extraordinarie paynes in the borrows affairs thir two years bypast."

Clerk, £400.

31. Allowed to the clerk £400 Scots "upon the accompt of his extraordinary paynes in the borrowes affaires."

Servants, gratuities.

32. Allowed gratuities to James Nasmith, depute clerk, of £15 sterling, and to the clerks servant of 100 merks.

Act in favours of Dawick and severall others.

33. Appointed the agent to pay to John Veatch, presenter of the signatures, £60 Scots; to Alexander Dunlop, "clerk to borrow equi," £60 Scots; to the macers of privy council 40 merks, and to the macers of session 40 merks, "and that as a gratuity to them for ther services quhat ever any of the royall borrowes have any affairs adoe ather befor the privy counsell or sessione;" also to Andrew and George Moncur, burgh officers, 250 merks, and to Sir William Campbell six rex dollars.

Unlaws for absence.

34. Unlawed the absent burghs in £100 Scots each.

Conservators letter, Kennedy's relict.

35. Appointed the committee which is to sit after this convention to write an answer to the conservator's letter and to consider a petition by the relict of Sir James Kennedy.

Act, disolveing convention.

36. Dissolved the present convention and appointed next general meeting to be held at Edinburgh in July 1695.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1695.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Hugh Blair, dean of gild, and Alexander Thomson, hammerman; Perth, Robert Smith; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirling, John Stevinsone; Lithgow, Jeriemia Huntar; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, John Moore; Hadingtoun, William Maccall; Dysart, Alexander Swintoun; Kirkcaldie, John Bosewall; Montrose, James Mudie; Cupar, Sir Archibald Moore; Dumfreis, Robert Johnstoun; Invernese, John Cuthbert; Bruntjsland, Alexander Gedd; Innerkeithing, Alexander Spitall; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Francis Mollisone; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Thomas Porteous; Kirkcudbright, John Ewart; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dunfermling, John Chalmers; Selkirk, James Mitchellhill; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet; Rhenfrew, William Cochrane; Dumbar, Robert Faa; Lanerk, Robert Huntar; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stevine; Elgine, James Stewart; Peeples, Robert Forrester; Carraill, George Moncreiff; Tayn, William Ross; Culross, Robert Blair; Bamff, Walter Stewart; Forfar, John Carnegie; Forres, William Brodie; Rutherglen, John Scot; Northberwick, John Home; Kilrennie, Alexander Stevinsone; Annan, Bryce Blair; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Dingwall, Kenneth M'Kenzie; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Fortrose, Daniel Sympsone; Innerbervie, William Beaty. (Seventeen burghs *absent.*)

2 July 1695.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1695.

1. Sir Robert Cheisly, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The oath of allegiance taken and the assurance subscribed by those members who had not previously done so in that capacity. Alleadgiance and assurance.

3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commisions.

4. Approved of the commissions, dispensing with some formalities. Commissions approved.

5. Appointed a general committee to consider the whole missive and all other affairs coming before this convention. Generall comity.

6. The convention appoynts the fourth article of the misive wherin the agent is impowered to receave ilk particular burghs contributione appoynted towards the building of the bridge of Dumbartoun, conforme to the sewerall acts of borrowes in ther favours, to be heirafter delet out of the missive; but in respect the foundatione of the said bridge is not yeit begun, therfore the conventione declaires how soon applicatione shall be made be the burgh of Dumbartoun to the royall borrowes representing that the foundatione of ther bridge is laid and begun that the forsaid contributione appoynted be the royall borrowes to be payed to the agent for ther use shall commence and be a head of the missive. Bridge of Dumbartoun.

7. Continued, and appointed to be heads of next missive, articles referring to qualifications of commissioners, stopping gifts and monopolies, casing of burghs in tax roll, and old broad cards. Heads of misive continued.

4 July 1695.

8. Appointed the agent "to assist the commissioner of Fortrose in persewing the shyre of Ross befor the parliament for disjoyneing ther burgage lands from payment of ther publict burdens with the shire of Ross." Fortrose.

9. Having heard the committee's report as to Tayne, the convention appointed the agent to assist that burgh "in giveing in ane petition to the parliament or lords of privie councill anent the ruinous conditione of ther tolbooth, and that the samen is lyck to fall doun, and to discharge any prisoners to be sent to the said burgh till ther tolbooth be rebuilded or repaired." The convention appointed a report on the condition of the burgh and "the visitatione of the burgh of Dornoch by the burghs of Tayne and Dingwall, with ther mean and low conditione, the want of magistracie, and ther unsupportable burden in the taxt roll," to be heads of next general missive. Tayn and Dornoch.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1695.

Annan and other burghs.

10. The conventione haveing considered the mean and low conditione of the burghs of Dysart, Culross, Lochmaben, and Annan, and the frequent applicationes they make to be eased in the taxt roll, they appoint the samen to be taken wnder speciall consideratione and what way the saids poor burghs may be eased of ther burdens; and upon representatione of the burghs of Elgine, Kirkcaldie and Bamff, made be the commissioners therof, the conventione appoynts the present decay of trade and ther unsupportable burden of debts, with ther proportione of the taxt roll, to be considered as ane head of the next misive.

Bruntisland.

11. The conventione haveing considered the commissioner of Innerkeithings reports that he hade taken inspectione of the caice and conditione of the town of Burntjsland and the last years revenew, with the thesaurers accompts, and fand that there comon good was supperexpended conforme to ane stated accompt subscryved be the magistrats, and that he hade bestowed the sowme of three hundreth marks Scots monie receaved from the agent of the borrowes for repairatione of the wester peir and harbour of Bruntjsland, conforme to ane particular accompt given in with the instructions therof and therafter delyvered to the commissioner of Bruntisland; the conventione approves of the commissioners of Innerkeithings care and dilligence therin and appointes the farder consideratione of the said wester peir and harbour to be visited by the burghs of Edinburgh, Innerkeithing, Kirkcaldie, Dysart, Kinghorn and Pitenweem, or any three of them, and to report to the comity that is to sit after disolveing of this conventione, with power to them to allow to the towne of Bruntisland what shall be thought necesar for repairatione of the said wester peir, to be bestowed at the sight and by the advyce of the commissioner of Innerkeithing.

Cromarty, Viscount Tarbat.

12. The committee formerly appointed not having met, the convention of new appointed the provost of Edinburgh, Coupar, Dumbartoun, and Queensferrie to commune with the Viscount of Tarbat anent the affairs of the burgh of Cromarty.

Peeples and Northberwick.

13. Renewed the remits contained in the 20th act of last general convention.

Anent shouldiers exacting lodging, coall and candle.

14. The convention haveing considered the overture past by the comity for securitie of the kingdome, wherby it was ther opinion that all officers exacting lodgeing, coall and candle, gratis, for themselves, ther

wives or children, shall loss ther commissions, and that all shouldiers exacting lodgeing, coall and candle, gratis, for themselves, ther wives or children, shall be lyable for the damnadge; and that in caice of complaint upon a shouldier not commissionat his exacting as aforsaid, the comanding officer to whom the complaint shall be made known shall be obleidged to make present payment of the complainers damnadge at the sight and appoyntment of the magistrats within burgh, and at the sight of the justices of peace or other judges within the shyre, wnder the penalty of paying three moneths pay for the first fault, and for the second shall louse his commissione; and that the forsaid three moneths pay shall be applyed for defraying of the complainers expences in prosecuting the officer befor the lords of privie councill; which being considered be the conventione they recommend to each particular member of parliament to use ther endeavour for passeing of the said act of parliament as tending verie much to the intrest of the state of borrowes.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1695.

Anent shouldiers exacttng lodging, coall and candle.

18 July 1695.

15. The convention ratified, approved and confirmed to Mr William Cochrane of Kilmaronock, a charter granted by the magistrates, town council, and community of Dumbartoun, dated 5th November 1692, of common lands belonging to that burgh and lying within the territory of the same, reserving certain highways through the lands, to be holden of the magistrates and council as superiors, and paying therefor £4 Scots of feu duty yearly.

Ratificatioun in favor of Kilmaronock.

16. Referring to the 15th act of last general convention they ratified a contract between Lord Sinclair and the council and community of the burgh whereby the differences between them were settled and adjusted. The contract was ordered to be recorded after this convention.

Dysart.

17. The convention considering ane draught of ane act of parliament anent the royall borrowes receaveing of prisoners in ther tolbooths, which being publictly read was ordained to be recorded, wherof the tenor follows:—Our Soveraigne Lord considering that generally the burghs of this kingdome, havers of prisons, are troubled and overcharged with prisoners thrust into ther prisons who haue nothing to mantain themselues but most of necessity either starve or be a burden upon the burgh, doe therfor and for remead therof, with the advyce and consent of the esteats of parliament, statut and ordain that no magistrat of the saids burghes

Anent the receaving of prisoners.

EDINBURGH. 18 July 1695.

Anent the receaving of prisoners.

shall be for heirafter obleidged to receave any prisoners at the instance of privat pairties for civill debts and causes unless the pairtie or messenger who presents the prisoner doe first give to the magistrats security that in caice the prisoner cannot aliement himself then he shall aliement him and relieve the burgh of that chairge dureing his imprisonment; and where prisoners are committed by shirreffs and other inferior judges for criminall causes and delinquences, that then and in that caice the shirreff or other inferior judge by whom the prisoner is comitted shall be lyable to aliement the said prisoner so far as his moveable goodes will extend to and shall be intrometed with by the said shirreff or any other inferior judge or ther ordors, as also that the said shirreff or other inferrior judges doe cause prosecut and bring to tryall the forsaid criminalls comitted by them with all dilligence as they will be answersable, provideing allwayes, lyckeas it is heirby expressly provyded, that this act shall not be extended to such prisoners as by ordor of his Majesty or of his privie councill or of his Majestys advocat for his highness intrest shall be comitted prisoners but that such prisoners and the burghs where they shall be comitted shall be in the same caice as they were befor the makeing of this act, and which act being delayed to be past in the last sessione of parliament, therfor the convention recomends to the sewerall commissioners of borrows to doe thair outmost endeavours for passeing of the said act in the next sessione of parliament as tending verie much to the intrest of the state of borrowes.

Adjudications befor inferior judicatories.

18. The convention considering ane draught of ane act of parliament anent adjudicationes befor inferior courts, which being publictly red was ordained to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes:—Our soveraigne Lord and the esteats of parliament takeing to consideratione that the necesar expences in leading adjudicationes befor the lords of session doe in severall caices exceed the sowme for which adjudicationes are deduced, for remead whereof in tyme comeing it is statut and ordained that it shall be leisum to all persones who shall happen to adjudge heirafter for sowmes not exceeding fyve hundreth marks, that they may intent and prosecut the samen adjudicationes befor the inferiors courts within whose jurisdictione the debitor leives, and the respective judges of the saidis courts are heirby warranted to proceed therin conforme to the act of parliament made anent adjudications of lands, and which act being

delayed to be past the last sessione of parliament therfore the conventione recomends to the sewerall commissionars of borrowes to doe ther outmost endeavours for paseing of the said act in the next sessione of parliament as tending verie much to the intrest of the state of borrowes. EDINBURGH. 18 July 1695. Adjudications befor inferior judicatories.

19. Remitted to a committee to consider, and to do what is best for the interest of the burghs in regard to a decreit obtained against them at the instance of George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh, for payment of £1180 Scots, and also a decreet obtained against them by the creditors of the deceased Sir James Kennedie. Sir George Mackenzie and Sir James Kennedies relict.

22 July 1695.

20. The cenventione considering ane accompt of cess resting by the burgh of Cromarty, extending to the sowme of nynteen hundreth and sextie fyve pound Scots mony, since Martinmas j^{m} vj^{c} and eighty one to Candlemas j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie one yeares, which Sir James Oswald of Fingletown and James Dunlop, lait generall receavers, are creaveing payment thereof, doe therfor appoynt applicatione to be made to the lords off theasaurie for ane ease of the said sowme and that the Viscount of Tarbat be acquainted to assist and concur with the royall borrowes befor the thesaurie, being his concerne, and appoynts the burghs of Edinburgh, Coupar, Dumbartoun and Lochmaben, or any two of them, whereof Edinburgh to be one, to meet with the said Sir James Oswald and James Dunlop anent what is trewly resting of the said cess be the said burgh of Cromarty, with power to them to adjust the wholl mater and object against the accompt given in, and to defend or determine thairin as they shall see just, and appoynts the agent to advance what shall be determined by them, or otherwayes impowers the agent to consult advocats and prosecut the said affair as accords of the law by advyce of the said comitie. Burgh of Cromartie.

21. The convention appoynts the factors serveing at the staple port, upon the death, vaccancie, or demissione of a conservator, to uplift and collect the former dewes in use to be payed to him dureing the vaccancie, in the same way and maner as any former conservator was in use to uplift and collect the samen, and which dewes is to be made furthcomeing to the state of borrowes for ther proper use and behooff, alloweing allwayes to Staple factors, conservators dewes.

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1695.

the saids factors for thair collections what shall be thought reasonable by the generall conventione to whom they shall give in ther accompts.

Captain Covent, £20.

22. The conventione haveing heard the conservators report that he hade prevailed with Captain Convent, captain of ane Dutch man of war, to attend sewerall Scots ships to the mouth of the firth, though his ordors bear only the length of Flamboriehead, and that he was engadged for that service to promise ane gratificatione to him, the conventione in consideratione therof appoynts the agent to advance to the said Captain Convent, or to the conservator to his behooff, the sowme of twenty pound sterling of gratuity, which they grant warrand to the agent to uplift from the sewerall skippers or masteres of the saides ships which wer wnder the protectione of the said convoy, and to proportione the said quota amongst them according to ther burdens, viz., the ships at and above 100 tunn to pay twentie shillings sterling and the ships wnder that burden to pay two doucat downs, and to persew all lyable in payment therof.

Exeiming severall burghs.

23. Exempted the burghs of Forras, Tayne, Dingwall, Nairn, Dornoch and Wester Anstruther, from attendance at conventions for one year, on the usual conditions.

Queensferrie.

24. Appointed the agent to pay 200 merks towards the present repair of the pier and harbour of Queensferry and the commissioner of Innerkeithing to oversee the work and report.

Agent's accompts.

25. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1694 to July 1695, extending to £5405, 14s. 4d., and appointed the burghs to pay their proportions.

Tack to Mr John Buchan.

26. The convention haveing considered the renounciatione given in by Mr John Buchan, ther agent, of his tack granted to him by the convention of borrowes in Jullie 1692, wherby he is obleidged to free and releive the state of borrowes of ten pownd Scots of the taxt roll, with its proportion of the misive dewes, for thrie yeares to come and two yeares therafter in the option of the said Mr John Buchan, and the conventione haveing for a long tyme debeated and reasoned amongst themselves the conveniencie and inconveniencie of Mr John Buchan his giveing over his tack at this tyme, and haveing called Mr John befor them and fullie heard him in their presence upon the reasons of his giveing ouer his tack, and haueing considered that Mr John Buchan is the fittest person to prosecut the said tack for the generall good of the royall borrowes and that it would be ther intrest that he should containow the same for the other

two years yett to run, therfor the said Mr John Buchan, at the desire of the conventione and the respect he owes to the royall borrowes, is willing and content to keep his tack for the other two yeares yeit to run therof, and in presence of the conventione did take up his said renounciatione given in by him of his tack, declaireing allwayes that if it shall fall out that the said Mr John shall be a louser, as it is hoped he will not, he referrs himself simply and absolutly to the royall borrowes favour and generosity.

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1695.

Tack to Mr John Buchan.

27. The convention haveing considered the memoriall given in by the lord conservator anent the staple port, with the reasones adduced by sewerall members anent the most expedient place for setleing the staple in tyme coming, doe therfor appoint that the staple port shall remaine and containow at the toun of Campheir untill the next generall conventione in Jully 1696, and in the mean tyme to the effect the royall borrowes may be the more rype and deliberat either as to the containoweing or changeing of the staple port, they allow the said lord conservator to comon with such places in the Netherlandes as he shall think fitt anent what incouradgements they will offer for establisheing of the said staple port amongst them, and to report the samen to the royall borrowes betuixt and the next generall conventione.

Anent establishing of the staple port.

28. Allowed to Alexander Hamiltoun of Kinkell £100 Scots "towards the present building of his harbour of Kinkell, being so publict and necesarie a work for the use of the tradeing burghs of this kingdome."

Kinkell harbour.

29. Allowed to Mr Andrew Kennedie of Cloburne, lord conservator, £100 sterling "in consideration of his expenses in comeing over to wait upon the royall borrowes and manadgeing the affair of the staple port."

Conservator £100.

30. The conventione, upon report that the secretaries of state hade procured from his Majestie ane letter under his royall hand of the dait the (*blank*), wherby his Majestie, from his cair and zeall for promoteing the trade of this kingdome, granted full power and warrand to the lords commissionars of the admiralitie of Scotland to grant passes to our shipes tradeing unto forraigne places, which formerly they were in use and at the pains to procurr from the lordes of the admirality of England, therfor the conventione grants warrand to ther agent to pay the dewes of the said leter, extending to the sowme of nyne pounds sterling monie, which shall be allowed to him, and ordains the clerk to record the said leter after disolveing of this conventione.

Act anent granting of passes.

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1695.

Sir James Stewart, assessor.

31. The conventione, considering that Sir James Stewart, his Majesties advocat, hes been verie active in serveing the just intrest of the state of borrowes on all occationes, both in parliament and privie councill, and assisting them as ther advocat in all caices wherin they are concerned, doe therfore containow his pensione of fyve hundreth marks for the year to come and allowes fyve pound sterling to his servants to be payed by the agent.

Agent, £600.

32. Allowed to the agent £600 Scots for his extraordinary pains in the burghs' service.

Book of raits.

33. The convention recomends to the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundie, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Kilrenie and Lochmaben, to peruse the book of raits and report thair opinion of what amendements are necesar to the next generall conventione.

Conservator's dewes.

34. The conventione haveing considered the 15 act of the generall conventione in Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty yeares, wherby they appoynt fyfteen stivers upon the value of the hunder gilders of goodes to be exacted by the conservator and his deputs from all merchants as his dewes, therfor they appoynt ilk burgh to be sufficiently instructed to the next generall conventione whether or not the conservators dewes be exacted in tyme comeing upon the neat product, all chairges being deduct, or upon the value of the goodes sold in gross as the factors provisiones are.

Act in favours of the servants.

35. Appointed the agent to pay to the clerk £400 Scots of gratuity, and the same gratifications as formerly to his servants and to the presenter of signatures and others.

Breakers of staple port.

36. Appointed a committee to meet with the conservator and "give ther best advyce to him anent his procedor against the breakers of the staple port."

Absent burghs.

37. Unlawed absent burghs in £100 Scots each.

Mr Ridpeth to be agent at London.

38. It being proposed by the conventione that the sewerall members of borrowes doe immediatly acquaint ther constituents to know ther opinion how far it is the intrest of the royall borrowes to accept of all merchants or michanicks of all sorts, whether forraigne or native, to come to the sewerall burghs of this kingdome and to set up ther for payment of such a sowme as shall be agreed upon, and to grant them the privieledges and freedomes of ther sewerall incorporationes, and to report thair opinion to the next generall convention; as also the imploying of Mr

George Ridpeth to be agent at London, and in the meantyme recomends to the provest of Edinburgh to imploy him in the borrowes affairs which they will take wnder consideratione at the next generall conventione. EDINBURGH. 22 July 1695.

39. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1696. Dissolving convention.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, John Robertsone, dean of gild, and Alexander Monteath, convener; Perth, Dauid Murray; Dundie, Alexander Bell; Stirling, John Stevinsone; Linlithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, William Jack; Glasgow, Robert Rodger; Air, Robert Moore; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Kirkcaldie, Robert Whyte; Montrose, Robert Rennald; Coupar, Sir Archibald Moore; Dumfreis, John Reid; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbar, Alexander Kellie; Pittenweem, George Smith; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Dysart, Bruntjsland, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Invernese, Dumbartoun, and Lauder, *absent.* EDINBURGH. 3 December 1695. Sederunt.

3 December 1695.

1. Sir Robert Cheisley, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed. Allegiance and assurance.
3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.

4 December 1695.

4. Approved of the whole commissions produced. Commissions approved.

5. The particular convention appoints the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Dundie, Glasgow, Lithgow and Queensferrie, and such others as can conveniently attend, with the agent, to consult his Majesties advocat, ther assessor, and Sir James Ogilvie, his Majesties soliciter, in the mater of the fisherie proposed by the pairtners in England, and what method and missour is fitt to be taken by the royall borrowes to stop ther present designe of the said fisherie, and what is proper to be done for geting libertie and licience from the lords of his Majesties privie councill for importatione of Irish maill, bear, and peise to this kingdome, and how the stop laitly led on the mint may be taken of, as also to advyse how the borrowes may be free Representations as to various matters.

EDINBURGH. 4 December 1695.

Representations as to various matters.

from signeing the preliminarie which is made a fundamentall constitutione of the Royall Bank by the patenters, the said preliminarie not being in the termes of the act of parliament anent the bank, and to report to the conventione ; and accordingly the comity haveing reported that they consulted the kings advocat and soliciter in the above wryttin particulars, but that the petitions and representations necessar to be extended and given in to the lords of his Majesties privie councill in the matters above represented could not be readie till the next councill day, therfore the conventione, considering that sewerall of ther members could not attend that dyet, they doe appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Pearth, Glasgow, Linlithgow, Air, Hadingtoune, Coupar, Montrose, Dumfreis, Irvine, Pittenweem, Lochmaben, and Queensferrie, as a comity to prosecute the saides affaires, whereof fyve to be a quorum, with full power to them to subcomite maters as they shall find just and expedient, to attend the lords of his Majesties privie councill anent the representatione to be given in by them in the mater above represented and to bring the samen to a finall end.

Fisheries, records of royall borrowes.

6. The particular convention considering that ther is a designe for seting up a fisherie in the kingdome of England, and it being the generall concerne of the royall borrowes that ane fisherie be set up in the kingdom of Scotland, therfore the conventione appoynts that it shall be a head of the next generall missive that ane fisherie be proposed to such royall borrowes as shall be willing to be pairtners therein ; as also that ane abreviat of the acts of the generall and particular conventions be proposed to be made up of the records of the royall borrowes, and if the samen be thought needfull to be printed, and to send ther commissioners sufficiently instructed theranent.

EDINBURGH. 23 April 1696

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, appointed by the 19th act of last General Convention, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt

Edinburgh, John Robertsone ; Coupar, Sir Archibald Mure ; Dumbartoune, Mr James Smolet ; Lochmaben, (*blank*).

23 April 1696.

EDINBURGH. 23 April 1696.

George M'Kenzie, Archibald Buntine.

1. Appointed the agent to pay the sums contained in decreet obtained by George Mackenzie, son and heir to the deceased Sir George Mackenzie, and his tutrix, against the burghs, viz., to George Mackenzie £1000 Scots, and to Archibald Bountine £180 Scots.

Creditors of Sir James Kennedie.

2. The creditors of the deceased Sir James Kennedie, lord conservator, having obtained decreit against the royal burghs for £1000 Scots, which sum was arrested in the hands of the agent as being due under an act of the general convention in July 1688, the convention ordained the agent to pay to the creditors 1000 merks being all that was due by the burghs at the time of the arrestment.

Cess due by Cromarty.

3. The committee appointed by the 20th act of last general convention having considered the account given in by the general receivers owing by the burgh of Cromarty for cess, from Martinmas 1681 to Candlemas 1691, and the agent having reported that he had made several applications to the lords of treasury for relief but could not prevail, they appointed the agent to make payment to the general receiver of £1965 Scots being the sum due.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1696.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, John Robertsone, dean of gild, and Alexander Monteath, conveener; Perth, Dauid Murray; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdein, John Allardes; Stirling, John Steivinsone; Linlithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, Robert Mure; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, Alexander Swintoune; Kirkcaldy, Henrie Bosewald; Montross, Robert Rennalds; Coupar, Sir Archibald Mure; Dumfreis, John Irvine; Inverness, John Barbour; Bruntjsland, Alexander Gedd; Inverkeithing, Robert Baird; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Alexander Young; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Wigtoune, William Coultrane; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, John Wilkie; Selkirk, James Mitchellhill; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet; Dumbar, Robert Kelly; Lanerk, Archibald Sympsone; Aberbrothock, William Auchterlonie; Elgine, William King; Peebles, John Frier; Craill, William Craufurd; Culross, Mr William Erskine; Whythorne, John Candlish; Forfar, Alexander Jaffray; Nairn, John Rose; Forras, William Brodie; Rutherglen, John Scot; Northberwick, John Home; Kilrennie, James Peacock; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Sanquhar, James Huntar; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Fortrose, Daniel Sympsone. (Twenty burghs *blank*.)

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1696.

7 July 1696.

Preses. 1. Sir Robert Cheislie, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Alleadgiance and assurance. 2. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

Revising commissions. 3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

Commissions approved. 4. Having considered report of the committee, approved of the commissions.

Generall comity. 5. Appointed a general committee to consider the missive and other affairs coming before the present convention.

Heads of missive continued. 6. Continued, and appointed to be heads of next missive, articles referring to qualifications of commissioners, stopping gifts and monopolies, easing the burghs of Haddingtoun, Dumfries, and Stranraer in the tax roll, the poverty and want of magistracy of Dysart, Lochmaben, Culrose, Annan and Fortrose, and petition of the latter burgh resigning their privileges, the condition of Tayne with the visitation of their tolbooth and church, and the visitation of Dornoch with their low condition and want of magistracy.

7. Approved of report by the commissioner of Edinburgh of their stopping in exchequer a gift under his Majesty's hand for James Young, late surveyor of Dumfreis, being general surveyor of the bullion through the kingdom.

8 July 1696.

Ratifying act of toun councill of Irvine. 8. The conventione ratifies, approves, and confirms ane act of the toun councill of Irvine, of the dait the seaventeen day of January j^{m} vj^{c} nynty six yeares, anent payment of a pairt of the touns debts with the lotted land rents, by way of advance, belonging to the magistrats and councill of Irvine, in the haill heads, clauses, tenor and contents thereof, with full power to the saids magistrats and toun councill of Irvine to set tacks, long or short, of any lands belonging to them, whether property or comonty, not exceeding nynteen yeares, and to take such other methods as may be most usefull for improveing of the saids touns patrimonie in order to the payment of ther debts, and grants warrand to the clerk efter disolveing of the conventione to record the foresaid act of the said towne councill.

Ratifieing tack granted by Edinburgh. 9. The conventione ratifies, approves, and confirmes ane tack granted by the lord provost, baillies, and toun councill of Edinburgh, with advyce and consent of the deacons of crafts, ordiner and extraodinar, of the said burgh, in favours of William Carfrae, Dauid Cathcart and Alexander Inglis, merchants, Patrick Carfrae and Alexander Gaudilocks, measons, of

the dait the fourth day of December j^m vj^c nynty fyve yeires, of the Borrowloch and Bruntsfeild Lincks, and that for the space of tuenty seaven yeares, after the terme of Martimas j^m vj^c nynty fyve yeires, for the payment of the soume of one hundreth pound sterling yeirly per advance, in all the heads, claussis, tenor, and contents thereof. EDINBURGH. 8 July 1696. Ratifieing tack granted by Edinburgh.

10. The conventione, considering that seweralls of the nobility, gentry, and particular corporationes of this kingdome, have subscryved the bookes of the Affrican and Indian trade for considerable soumes of mony, whereby great prospect of gain may arise to all those concerned in the said capitall fond, doe therefore enact, statut, and ordain that the whole state of borrowes of this kingdome shall be pairtners in the said Affrican and Indian trade, for the sowme of three thousand pound sterling monie, which the conventione impowers Sir Robert Cheislie, ther preces, to subscryve the bookes of the said companie for them and in ther names for the said thrée thousand pound sterling as a fond appropriat for the use of the royall borrowes, and appoynts the agent to pay in the first fourth pairt of the said sowme to the manadgers of the said company betuixt and Martimas nixt, and the other fourth pairt thereof to be payed betuixt and Lamas j^m vj^c and nynty seaven yeares, and ordains each burgh to pay ther respective proportions of the said sowme to the said Mr John Buchan, ther agent, conforme to the present taxt roll, in the same way and maner as they pay ther misive dewes; and the convention nominats and appoynts the said Sir Robert Cheislie to represent them for the forsaid sowme in all the generall meetings of the said company till the next generall conventione; whereupon the commissioners for Aberdeen, Monross, Kirkcaldy, Invernes, Inverkeithing, Pitenweeme, Kinghorne, Dumbartoune, Arbroth, Elgin, Forfar, Nairne, Fortross and Brechen discented and protested that they might be free from any payment of the said sowme in respect they were not instructed by ther constituents, and therafter William Menzies, commissioner for Lochmaben, did in presence of the conventione offer that if the saids burghs who did disent should, betuixt and the first of August nixt, intimat to him that the severall burghs they represent is not willing to pay ther proportions of the forsaid sowme, conforme to the taxt roll, to the said Mr John Buchan, that then and in that caice he obleidged himself to free the forsaides disented burghs of ther respective proportiones and pay the African book to be subscribed for £3000 sterling.

EDINBURGH 8 July 1696.

samein to the said Mr John Buchan, they transferring ther particular shares to the said William Menzies.

Act anent the fisherie.

11. The conventione considering that ther is a designe for seting up a fisherie in the kingdome of Ingland, and it being the generall concerne of the state of borrowes that ane fishery be set up in the kingdome of Scotland, which may tend to the great benefeit and advantage of all those that may be concerned therin, doe therfore appoynt the burghs of Edinburgh [and twenty others as a committee to] take wnder thir speciall consideratione what methods and measures is fit to be proposed for setting up a fisherie in this kingdome and whether the samen shall be set up by such royall borrowes as shall be willing to be pairtners therin or by a joynt stock of the whole borrowes, and impowers the lord provest of Edinburgh to call a particular conventione for adjusting this affair if need beis.

Act anent michanicks.

12. The conventione haveing considered how far it is the intrest of the royall borrowes to accept of all michanicks of all sorts, whether forraigne or native, to come to the sewerall burghs of this kingdome and to set up ther, for payment of such a sowme as shall be aggreed upon, and to grant them the priviledges and freedomes of ther sewerall incorporationes, and in respect the good toun of Edinburgh hes been allwayes in use to take in any tradsmen of singular airt (who maks applicatione to the toun councill) to any of ther respective incorporationes, gratis, and allowes them ther privieledges and freedomes, doe therefore recommend to all the royall borrowes to doe the same and to deal discreitlie with any persone or persones so qualified that offers himself to come in.

Comity anent old broad cairds.

13. The convention appoints six burghs as a committee "to take under consideratione what complaints shall be offered by any of the royall burrowes against Ewan MacGrigor and his pairtners in the manufactorie of old broad cairds," and also what complaints he or they may have against the burghs.

Ridpeth, agent at London.

14. The convention "elects, nominats, and choyses Mr George Ridpeth to be agent for the royall borrowes at London dureing the convention's pleasour," and allowed him a salary of £30 sterling yearly.

Abbreviat of acts of conventione.

15. Appointed the clerk and agent "to revise the whole actis of the generall and particular conventiones and to make up ane compend or abreviat of the saids acts betuixt and the nixt generall conventione."

Act allowing Northberwick 200 lib. Scots.

16. The conventione appoynts the caice and conditione of the burgh of Northberwick, with the visitatione therof by the burghs of Hading-

toun and Dumbar, as to ther comon good, harbour, and proportione of the taxt roll, be containowed as a head of the next generall missive ; and in the meantyme appoints Mr John Buchan to advance them towards the repairatione of the said peir and harbour two hunder powndes Scots, which is to ly in his hands untill the gentlemen of the shyre contribut what shall compleit the repairatione of the said peir and harbour, which is heirby recommended to be applyed at the sight and by the advyce of the burghs of Hadingtoun and Dumbar. EDINBURGH. 8 July 1696. Act allowing Northberwick 200 lib. Scots.

17. The conventione haveing considered the petitione given in by the burgh of Brichen and the reasones therin contained, doe therefore appoint the burghs of Dundie, Montrose, St Andrews, Craill, Aberbrothock and Forfar, to meet as a comity, whereof three to be a quorum, and visit the caice and conditione of the said burgh and take tryall of ther comon good and in quhat conditione ther tolbooth and school is and report betuixt and the next generall conventione, and this to be a head of the next misive ; and recommends to the particular burghs who are members of parliament to use ther outmost endeavour to get a small custome imposed upon the bridge of the said burgh, to be applyed by them towards the repairatione thereof in tyme comeing. Burgh of Brichen.

18. The conventione upon ane petitione [given] in by the magistrats of Lanerk, they for the reasones and causes therin contained, recomend their caice and conditione to the parliament for supplying and assisting them in building of ther bridge, and appoynts the whole commissioners of the royall borrowes to doe ther outmost endeavour to get ane supply granted to them. Burgh of Lanerk.

19. Having considered the petition of the relict of Sir James Kennedy, late conservator, the convention assigned to the petitioner full right to the conservator's dues collected after Lammas 1688. Madam Kennedie.

20. The conventione haveing heard ane complaint given in by the toun of Dumfreis, representing that by sewerall acts of parliament and acts of borrowes unfrie traders are discharged and ilk burgh appoynted to give in ane list of all unfree traders leiving within ther precinct, yeit trew it is that Marthias Partes and his pairtners, leiveing in Newcastle and Tallantyre in Ingland, hes set up ane trade of tobbacco, makeing irron, tarr, deals, &c., and retailis great quantities therof by ther servants in Annan and sewerall other adjacent towns in and about Dumfreise, altho Towne of Dumfreise.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1696.

they themselves leive in Ingland with ther families, and that they caric no product out of the kingdome but mony in specie; which being considered by the conventione they appoynt the caice of Dumfreise to be a head of the next generall missive, and the magistrats of Annan and the said Marthias Partes and his pairtners to be ceited again the next generall conventione.

Towne of Dumfreise.

9 July 1696.

Difference between Earl of Traquhair and burgh of Peebles.

21. The conventione haveing considered the petitione given in by the burgh of Peeples, representing that they and ther predecessores hade the priveledge to sease all light weights and short elvans and other unsufficient goodes in all the fairs and publict marcats within the shyre of Tifvidaill, yeit of late they were impedded by the Earle of Traquair, therefor the conventione recommends to the burghs of Coupar, Dumbartoun, and Lochmaben, to comon with the Lord Traquair anent the mater above represented, and to use ther outmost endeavour to accomodat the same, and report to the next generall conventione.

Comity to settle the staple port.

22. The conventione considering that the contract anent the staple port past betuixt the royall borrowes and the states of Campheir did expire in Aprile last, and that they did commissionat Mr Andrew Kennedie, lord conservator, to comon with such places in the Netherlands as he should think fit anent what encouragement they would offerr for establishing of the said staple amongst them, and since the conservator hes been impeded at this tyme against his will, so that he cannot attend the dyet of this present conventione nor report his dilligence to them anent the setleing of the said staple port, therfore the conventione remitts the whole affair of adjusting, determineing, and setleing the said staple port to the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundie, Aberdein, Glasgow, Air, Montrose, Irvine, Dumbartoun and Culross, whereof fyve to be a quorum, and the provost of Edinburgh to be preces, to meet as a comity after disolveing of this conventione whenever the preces shall aquaint them; and how soon the conservator comes over, to hear him fully anent what he hes to propose for the setleing of the said staple port for the benefeit and advantage of the royall borrowes, with full power to the said comity to adjust, determine, and setle the said staple port and enter in contract with such places in the Netherlands and upon such termes and conditiones and for so many

yeares as shall be judged most proper and convenient by the said comity, to condescend to for the generall benefeit of the royall borrowes, which the conventione heirby obleidges them to ratifie in the nixt generall conventione, and remitts the elleventh article of the missive anent the conservators dewes to be determined by them as they shall think fitt; and recomends to the said comity to take the affair anent the brandie wnder consideration whether the agent shall advance monie upon that accompt or not. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1696. Comity to settle the staple port.

23. Having heard the report of the visitors appointed last year, the convention appointed the agent to make payment to the burgh of Bruntisland of 400 merks towards the repair and building of their pier and harbour, and remitted to a committee to arrange for payment of the burgh's bygone missive dues. Bruntisland.

24. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1695 to July 1696, extending to £10,292, 13s. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions. Agent's accompts.

25. Appointed that hereafter the agent, at every general convention, report each burgh that has paid their missive dues that they may be recorded in the burgh register, also that he give up a list of the burghs in arrear that they may be proceeded against. Reporting payment of missive dues.

25*a*. Appointed to be a head of next missive, petitions by the burghs of Pittenweem, Kirkwall, Nairne and Forras, representing their poverty and heavy proportion of the tax roll, and appointed five burghs "to visit the burgh of Pitenweem anent the decay of ther harbour and peir, and report to the next generall conventione." Pittenweem and other burghs.

26. The conventione, upon the petition given in by the inhabitants of Elie, they for the reasones and causes thairin contained recomends to each burgh to be liberall in the generall contributione appoynted by the privie councill towards the repairing of ther harbour, it being soe good and profeitable a work. Act in favours of the inhabitants of Elie.

27. Continued to Sir James Stewart, his Majesties advocat, his pension of 500 merks for the year to come and allowed £5 sterling to his servants. Continuing Sir James Stewart to be assessor.

28. Allowed gratuities to the clerk of £400 and to the agent of £600 Scots. Clerk and agent.

29. Appointed the agent to pay to the servants and others their allowances as formerly. Servants and others.

30. Unlawed the absent burghs in £100 Scots each. Absent burghs.

31. Dissolved the present convention, and appointed the next general meeting to be held at Perth in July 1697. Dissolving convention.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1696.

they themselves leive in Ingland with ther families, and that they carie no product out of the kingdome but mony in specie; which being considered by the conventione they appoynt the caice of Dumfreise to be a head of the next generall missive, and the magistrats of Annan and the said Marthias Partes and his pairtners to be ceited again the next generall conventione.

Towne of Dumfreise.

9 July 1696.

Difference between Earl of Traquhair and burgh of Peebles.

21. The conventione haveing considered the petitione given in by the burgh of Peeples, representing that they and ther predecessores hade the priveledge to sease all light weights and short elvans and other unsufficient goodes in all the fairs and publict marcats within the shyre of Tifvidaill, yeit of late they were impedded by the Earle of Traquair, therefor the conventione recommends to the burghs of Coupar, Dumbartoun, and Lochmaben, to comon with the Lord Traquair anent the mater above represented, and to use ther outmost endeavour to accomodat the same, and report to the next generall conventione.

Comity to settle the staple port.

22. The conventione considering that the contract anent the staple port past betuixt the royall borrowes and the states of Campheir did expire in Aprile last, and that they did commissionat Mr Andrew Kennedie, lord conservator, to comon with such places in the Netherlands as he should think fit anent what encouragement they would offerr for establishing of the said staple amongst them, and since the conservator hes been impeded at this tyme against his will, so that he cannot attend the dyet of this present conventione nor report his dilligence to them anent the setleing of the said staple port, therfore the conventione remitts the whole affair of adjusting, determineing, and setleing the said staple port to the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundie, Aberdein, Glasgow, Air, Montrose, Irvine, Dumbartoun and Culross, whereof fyve to be a quorum, and the provost of Edinburgh to be preces, to meet as a comity after disolveing of this conventione whenever the preces shall aquaint them; and how soon the conservator comes over, to hear him fully anent what he hes to propose for the setleing of the said staple port for the benefeit and advantage of the royall borrowes, with full power to the said comity to adjust, determine, and setle the said staple port and enter in contract with such places in the Netherlands and upon such termes and conditiones and for so many

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1696.

yeares as shall be judged most proper and convenient by the said comity, to condescend to for the generall benefeit of the royall borrowes, which the conventione heirby obleidges them to ratifie in the nixt generall conventione, and remitts the elleventh article of the missive anent the conservators dewes to be determined by them as they shall think fitt; and recomends to the said comity to take the affair anent the brandie wnder consideration whether the agent shall advance monie upon that accompt or not. Comity to settle the staple port.

23. Having heard the report of the visitors appointed last year, the convention appointed the agent to make payment to the burgh of Bruntisland of 400 merks towards the repair and building of their pier and harbour, and remitted to a committee to arrange for payment of the burgh's bygone missive dues. Bruntisland.

24. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1695 to July 1696, extending to £10,292, 13s. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions. Agent's accompts.

25. Appointed that hereafter the agent, at every general convention, report each burgh that has paid their missive dues that they may be recorded in the burgh register, also that he give up a list of the burghs in arrear that they may be proceeded against. Reporting payment of missive dues.

25*a*. Appointed to be a head of next missive, petitions by the burghs of Pittenweem, Kirkwall, Nairne and Forras, representing their poverty and heavy proportion of the tax roll, and appointed five burghs "to visit the burgh of Pitenweem anent the decay of ther harbour and peir, and report to the next generall conventione." Pittenweem and other burghs.

26. The conventione, upon the petition given in by the inhabitants of Elie, they for the reasones and causes thairin contained recomends to each burgh to be liberall in the generall contributione appoynted by the privie councill towards the repairing of ther harbour, it being soe good and profeitable a work. Act in favours of the inhabitants of Elie.

27. Continued to Sir James Stewart, his Majesties advocat, his pension of 500 merks for the year to come and allowed £5 sterling to his servants. Continuing Sir James Stewart to be assessor.

28. Allowed gratuities to the clerk of £400 and to the agent of £600 Scots. Clerk and agent.

29. Appointed the agent to pay to the servants and others their allowances as formerly. Servants and others.

30. Unlawed the absent burghs in £100 Scots each. Absent burghs.

31. Dissolved the present convention, and appointed the next general meeting to be held at Perth in July 1697. Dissolving convention.

EDINBURGH. July 1696.

ACT of the TOWN COUNCIL of IRVINE, referred to in the 8th act of last General Convention.

At the burgh of Irvine, the seaventeen day of January j^m^ vj^c^ nynty six years. The whilk day, forasmuch as the magistrats and councill of the said burgh, mett and conveined within the councill house thairof, have thought it necessar and expedient to raise a considerable soume of mony out of the said towns revenews for the easeing of the said burgh, paying of and clearing of severall of the towns debts contained in bonds bearing annual rent, in regaird that the impositione one the malt, which is the fond allowed by the parliament for payment of the towns debts, cannot speedily affoord monie for that effect, and in ordor thairunto have proposed that the said towns land in use to be lotted be given furth in lott to such of the inhabitants as are willing to pay and advance ten pounds sterling each lott as the full rent of the seaven ensewing yeares, quherof this present cropt j^m^ vj^c^ nynty six yeares is the first, to be given and payed in to the toun thesaurer with the last yeares rent, cropt j^m^ vj^c^ and ninty fyve yeiris, betuixt and Candlemass nixt befor draweing of the lotts; and seeing the burgessis and inhabitants of this burgh, after they hade been publictly advertised of the said proposeall by touck of drum, did conveen frequently within the meill marcat house of this burgh upon the nynth day of January instant, and thair the rolls of the freemen and burgesses being red over and all of them called upon one by one, and being enquired at how they did please and rellish the said overture and proposeall, none of them did object in the contrair but expressed thair satisfactione thairwith and did allow and approve thairof, and that the persons particularly afternamed, each of them, hade accepted of a lot of the saids touns loted land upon the terms above and after mentioned, as follows, viz., Thomas M^c^Goun, present provest, Mr Alexander Cuninghame and James Boyle, lait provosts, Mr William Cuninghame and John Thomsone, present baillies, John Hamiltoun, clerk, John Gray, late baillie, George Mouro, clerk of Cuninghame, John Thomsone of Sevin Aicres, Alexander Montgomrie, Edward Kerr and William Mactaggart, younger, merchants, William M'Taggart, senior, William Broun, skipper, Janet Frizell and Elizabeth *alias* Bessie Weir, widow; John Reoch, shoemaker, and John Dean, coupar, one lott betuixt tham tuo; John M'Cumrray, wright, and

John Thomsone, shoomaker, one lott betuixt tham; Hugh and Robert Boyds, one lott betuixt tham; Alexander Thomsone, weaver, for the weaver trade, Thomas Thomsone, taillyor, for the tailler trade, John Thomsone, candlemaker, John Weir, coupar, William Dyet, smith, William Caldwell, horse merchant, and Robert and John MacCleishs, horse merchants, one lot betuixt tham tuo; makeing in all twenty six lotts, and thrie aikers in each lott; therfor the saids magistrats and councill, in persuance of the forsaid designe doe ordain and appoint the said toun land in use to be lotted to be given furth accordingly in lott to the persons particularly above named, each of them for ther oun pairts, as is after divided, upon thair advanceing and paying in to William MacTaggart, their present toun thessaurer, each of them ten pownds sterling for ilk lott, befor the lotteing of the said land, and those who fall these lotts that were formerly at 24 lib. Scots per annum the lott are to pay in to those whoe fall these lotts that wont to be at twenty tuo pound thretteen shyllings four pennies each lott the sowme of four pounds Scots monie, over and above the said ten pound sterling, in respect of these first mentioned lotts being so far preferrable to the latter; and alse upon ther advanceing to the said toun thesaurer at the said tyme (such of them as formerly hade lotts) the last yeares rent cropt j^{m} vj^{c} nynty fyve yeares, for which sowmes they are to produce the said thesaurers recept or discharge befor they be admitted to have the benefeit of a lott; and that towards the makeing up in the said thessaurers hands of a considerable soume of monie to be applyed by the saids magistrats and councill for payment of the most pressing debts and sowmes contained in the touns bonds bearing annualrent allanerallie, and no otherwayes. And which soumes raised by the said lotted lands and consequently out of the touns patrimony, extending in haill to (*blank*) and to be applyed as said is, are to be again repayed and made up to the said touns revenew as the magistrats and councill shall find necessary out of the said fond of the impositione upon the malt, as being the fond designed and appointed for payment of the saids towns debts. Lyckeas, the said sederunt doe appoint the day for lotting the said touns land in use to be lotted to be upon Wednesday the twenty nynth day of January instant. And for the saids inhabitants their security anent the saids lotts, that they may not heirafter be called in questione, the saids magistrats and councill doe heirby bind and obleidge

EDINBURGH. July 1696.

EDINBURGH. July 1696.

them and their successores in office, provost, baillies, dean of gild, theasurer, and councillours of the said burgh, to make the said lotting for the said space and at the said rate and in maner forsaid good and effectwall to the saids inhabitants procurers of the saids lotts, their aires, executores, and successores, and doe for themselves and ther saids successores in office promise and obleidge them never to quarrell, impugne, contravert or come in the contrair, aither in judgement or outwith the samen, directly or indirectly, in any tyme comeing, and that the saids persones procurers of the saids lotts shall have the same executione against ther subtacksmen of their respective lotts which wes competent to be used by the said touns thesaurer, and as if the samen were yeit in the touns hands; and if need beis shall procure a ratificatione, confirmatione, and approbatione of the said lotting, for the space and at the price and in the maner forsaid, at the next or subsequent conventione of the royall borrows of this kingdome, at the least the saids royall borrowes authorizeing the same.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 15 October 1696. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, John Robertson, dean of gild, and Alexander Monteath, convener; Aberdein, John Leslie; Aire, John Moore; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoune, Mr James Smolet; Culross, Mr William Erskine; Dundie, Glasgow and Montrose, (*blank*).

15 October 1696.

Preses.

1. Sir Archibald Mure of Thornetoune, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Staple contract altered and renewed.

2. The comity, conforme to the tuenty second act of the last generall conventione, impowering them to sit after disolveing of the said conventione for adjusting, determineing, and setleing of the staple port, and to enter in contract with such places in the Netherlands upon such termes and conditiones and for soe many yeares as should be judged most proper and convenient by the said comity to condescend to for the generall benefeit of the state of borrowes, haveing mett in ordor to the setleing thereof, and after full reasoning and debaiting of the most proper and convenient place for setleing of the said staple port, and hearing and considering of the conservators memoriall given in by him thereanent, together with his

EDINBURGH. 15 October 1696.

Staple contract altered and renewed.

report made in ther presence, the comity for the good amity and correspondence that formerly hes been betuixt the state of borrows and the toun of Campheir, and sewerall other grave and weighty considerationes moveing them, aggrees and condescends that the staple port be again setled in the toun of Campheir and that ane contract be past and exped betuixt the state of borrowes and the toune of Campheir; and the said comity be vertew of the said twenty second act impowering them to adjust, determine, and setle the said staple port, haveing sewerall tymes mett, have at last resolved and aggreed in the forme and maner contained in the followeing articles viz. :—

(1) Similar to the first article of last agreement, dated 9 November 1674 (vol iii. p. 693).

(2) Similar to the second article of last agreement, excepting that there is no reference to the approbation of the Prince of Orange (vol. iii. p. 693).

(3) Similar to the third article of last agreement (vol. iii. p. 694), with the following addition :

And by this article it is agreed that the goodes followeing is and shall be repute staple goodes and no others, viz., wooll, woolen and linnen yearn, all woolen and linnen manufactorie, hyds and skins of all sorts, plaiden, carsays, Scots cloath, stockins, salmond, tallow, oyl, and all sorts of barrell flesh and pork, butter, leather dressed and undressed; as also in respect salmond is such ane tender and perishable comodity it is heirby declaired that such quantities therof comeing from Scotland to Campheir after the first of October yeirlie the same shall only lye there to the first of November thereafter, and if salmond come after the first of November that the owners after unloading thereof have liberty to goe with the said salmond where they please, they makeing the first offer for seal in Campheir, and therafter to transport the samen where they may haue best seal therfore, payeing the conservators dewes allanerally; and sicklick it is heirby declaired that stockins not being ane comodity that frequently vends at the staple port that it should be leisum to the merchant owner thereof (in caice ther be no seal therfor within two moneths after importing the same to Campheir) to transport the same to any other port where they may have best seall therfore, and without payment of any dewes except the conservators allanerley.

(4-6) Similar to the fourth, fifth, and sixth articles of last agreement (vol. iii. pp. 694-6), with the following additions to the sixth article :—It was agreed

EDINBURGH. 15 October 1696.

Staple contract altered and renewed.

that the magistrates of Campheir should "provide the staple court with ane new church or rebuild the old." "And that as to the house where the staple court presently hear sermon, the repairation therof shall be presently repayed by the towne of Campheir, and that they pay the rent of the said house alsweel for bygones as in tyme comeing for the use of the Scots poor to whom the house belongs ay and whill the new church be rebuilt for the Scots natione or other wayes sufficiently provided by the repairatione of the old."

(7-17) Similar to articles seventh to seventeenth, both inclusive, of last agreement (vol. iii. pp. 696-700).

(18) And for the secureing of the trade of the Scots natione, it is heirby aggreed that the magistrats of Campheir shall upon all fiting and convenient occationes, in tyme of ware and danger, procure from the court of admirality in Zealand two weell furnished ships of ware, not below threty gunns apeice, that may attend in convoy upon the ships belonging to the Scots natione to any place or places within the river of Forth, or any other place in the kingdome of Scotland; the first of Apryle yeirly, and the first of October thereafter, old styll, to be the fixt tyme for the foresaidis convoyes to attend unless upon some emergencies falling out, that the conservator aquaint the magistrats of Campheir to send the saides convoyes sooner or latter which they shall be heirby obleidged to condescend to.

(19-36) Similar to articles nineteenth to thirty-sixth, both inclusive, of last agreement (vol. iii. pp. 700-5). The following is additional to the thirty-fourth article:—"Declaireing heirby that thair be no more office set up without the conservators consent, and that ther be no controllers of the ballance in tyme comeing, nor no dewes to be exacted in tyme comeing upon that accompt, except it be desired by the conservator and his court."

(37) Similar to the thirty-eighth article of last agreement (vol. iii. p. 705).

(38) It is by this article mutuallie aggreed and declaired that the containwance of the Scots staple at Campheir shall containow and endure for the space of twenty one years after the signeing of this aggreement and no longer, without the samen be renewed; and it is heirby declaired that the magistrats of the towne of Campheir shall heirby be obleidged to procure the states of Zealland, and the states generall of the seaven United Provinces, ther ratificatione, approbatione, and confirmatione of this present staple contract, with all the privieledges, jurisdictiones, and immunities thereof granted to the Scots natione, sicklick and als freely in all respects as the samen is to be ratified, approven, and confirmed by the King of Great Brittaine.

(39) Lastly, In consideration of all the forsaides articles, the magistrats of the toune of Campheir, with consent forsaid, doe promise to observe and cause to be observed inviolable all the forsaides articles that are performable on their pairt; and lyckwayes the state of borrowes doe promise that ordor shall be taken with all dilligence to inhibite and dischairge any ships of what quantity soever, without exemptione, which caries staple goodes, to frequent or haunt any other port or haven within the seaven United Provinces of the Netherlands but this towne of Campheir, and to cause punish rigorously all those persones that shall doe in the contrair. And in token that the whole premissis are done and aggreed unto, the said comity of the royall borrowes, appointed by the last generall conventione for adjusting, determineing, and setleing of the said staple port, in name and behalf of the state of borrowes, have subscryved thir presents, at Edinburgh, the fyfteenth day of October j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie sex yeares and at . . . the . . . day of . . . j^{m} vj^{c} and . . . yeires.

EDINBURGH. 15 October 1696.

Staple contract altered and renewed.

3. On a complaint against John and William Gordon, factors in Campheer, the convention allowed till 1st January 1697 for the former to renew his cautioners and for the latter to qualify himself.

John and William Gordons.

4. The committee, conform to the power granted them by the 22d act of last general convention, ordained that "the conservators dewes upon these goodes where he formerly uplifted three quarts per cent. upon the neat be for heirafter uplifted at three quarts per cent. upon the gross, according as the factors provisions are payed."

Conservator's dewes.

5. The comity appoints ane letter to be wryttin to the magistrats of Campheir anent Mr Gilbert Stewart, factor, there, his complaint against them, and recomends to thelord provost of Edinburgh and the commissioner for Dumbartoun to wryt the said leter, and to be insert after signeing of the book, as also the ansuer to the letters from the magistrats of Campheir to the royall borrowes anent the setleing of the staple port at Campheir, and impowers the lord provost of Edinburgh to signe the same in name of the comity.

Letters to toun of Campheir.

6. The comity haveing heard and considered his Majesties letter direct to the commissioners of the royall borrowes, they ordaine the same with ther answer made therto, to be recorded, of which letter the tenor followes :—WILLIAM, R. Right trustie and weell beloved, wee greet yow weell. Wee understand that in your last conventione yow have aggreed that your staple should be again setled at our toune of Campheir,

His Majesties letter anent the staple port.

EDINBURGH. 15 October 1696.

and that now haveing adjusted all the articles for a new contract, to endure for the space of twenty one yeares, there is nothing wanting save our authority to warrant yow to treat with the magistrats of Campheir, in regaird it belongs to a forraigne state, and to conclude with them conforme to the above mentioned articles; wherefore wee have thought fitt to authorize yow, and doe by these presents fully warrant and authorize yow to grant your commissione to whom yow think fitt to imploy for the effect aftermentioned, and by your commissionars, ane or mae, to treat and conclude with the said toune of Campheir and magistrates therof for setleing therein your staple for the Netherlands as yow and the magistrats can best aggree, and to subscryve contracts with them and doe all other things needfull for the establishing of the staple in the said toune, for doeing whereof these presents shall be your warrant; and soe wee bide yow fareweell. Given at our court, at Loo, the 26th day of August j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty sex yeares, and of our reigne the eight year. *Sic subscribitur:* By his Majesties command, RO. PRINGLE.

His Majesties letter anent the staple port.

The borrows ansuere to his Majesties letter.

May it please your Majesty. The interposing of your royall authoritie towards our setleing the staple port at Campheir, signified by your Majesties letter of the 26th August, is aknowledged by us as ane new instance of your Majesties singular care and protectione, and as wee have hade ane deutifull regaird to your Majesties pleasour in all our procedour which did preponderat all other considerationes, soe wee resolve to conclude that busines with all possible expeditione and have given commissione to the conservator for that effect.

Wee are farder allowed to assure your Majesty that your royall borrowes are wnder the deepest sense of ther deuty to your Majesty and will cheirfully evidence it upon all occationes.

Your Majesties saife returne to England is matter of great comfort and joy to us, and that it may please God, of his infinite mercy and goodnes, to preserve your sacred persone and vowchaiff your Majesty ane long and prosperous reigne over us, shall containow to be the constant prayers of, may it pleas your Majestie, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* ARD. MURE, P.

Commission to conservator to settle staple port.

7. The comity takeing to ther serious consideratione of how great import and concerne the setleing of the staple porte at Campheir will prove to the state of borrowes and haill trade of the kingdome, and how necesarie and expedient it is that some discreit and weell qualified per-

sone be impowered to treat with the Magistrats of Campheir for that effect, and being fully persuaded of the integrity, abilities, and other fit qualifications of Mr Andrew Kennedy, his Majesties resident in the Netherlands, and present conservator of the Scots privieledges, therfore by thir presents grant full power and commissione, expres biding, mandament, and chairge, to the said master Andrew Kennedie to transact and conclude with the magistrates of Campheir in the expres tearmes of the threty nyne articles aggreed upon by the comity and extended in ane contract subscryved by the lord provost of Edinburgh in name of the comity, firme and stable holding and for to hold what shall be transacted and aggreed upon by the said Mr Andrew Kennedie in the termes above mentioned and no other wayes; and that the said Mr Andrew Kennedie aquaint the lord provost of Edinburgh from tyme to tyme what progres he hes done therein.

EDINBURGH. 15 October 1696.

Commission to conservator to settle staple port.

8. The comity, considering that ther wes a generall conventione called to meit at Edinburgh the twenty nynth day of September last for raiseing of mony to exped the setleing of the staple port now in agitatione, as also for reimburseing of the former chairges which the conservator hes been alreadie put to theiranent, but that there came not a quorum of the conventione so that the said affair is yeit left vndone, and seeing the said comity hes given commissione to the said conservator for concludeing the bussines of the staple, and finding it just and reasonable that he should be reimbursed of the expences alreadie given out by him and of what he shall further expend therupon, as also ought to be suittably gratified for his pains and trouble, therfore the comity does heirby recomend the said conservator to the royall borrowes that they may doe the samen effectwally at ther first generall meeting.

Recomendatione in favours of conservator.

Bond of Caution and Letters *referred to in the foregoing Convention.*

For obedience of the third act of last convention, John Johnston, bailie of Aberdeen, and James Gordon, senior, merchant there, by bond dated 28 December 1696, bound themselves as cautioners for John Gordon factor at Campheer.

Gordon, factor.

Follows the letters underwrittin, appoynted by the comity for setleing the staple port to be recorded in the borrow register :—Noble and re-

Letter from the magistrats of Campheir.

EDINBURGH. October 1696. Letter from the magistrats of Campheir.

spected Lords.—The lord conservator, Androw Kennedie, did doe us the honour to give us the knowledge that a fleet of ships, with staple goodes and with other goodes unloadened, lay ready to come hitherwards with the first convoy, and accordingly have sought or required that wee would be pleased to have the inspectione thereof for to get a good and sufficient convoy to be sent hitherwards for to fetch of the common staple ships, for which cause wee did presently address our selves to the counsell of admirality heer and sought for the required convoy, which lyckwayes upon our requeists the ship called the Flushing, amounted with fyfty foure canons, they have ordained for to be a convoy of the forsaid staple fleet to come hitherwards, and that the same ship with the first good wind should be sett forward on ther voyage towards the Firth of Leith, wee have for that effect as not willing to be wanting for your honours respects to yow the knowledge heirof, with serviceable requeists that your respective honours, in conformity of the staple contract, ye would be pleased to have the forsight thereof and cause it to be done that all the staple wairs or goodes might be sent towards this staple place and to none other. And since that the forsaid staple contract was made for one and twenty years, in short shall come to be expired, wee neither would nor could neglect but by this to give your honors the knowledge heirof, lyckwayes as formerly more often by misive was done, soe that wee containoweing the bypast tyme since that the contract was made have seen litle fruits of the Scots staple containwally upon Campheir, but not so weell as it ought to have been, it being remarked that as much or more staple goodes went to other streames and roads then have been brought heir to the staple port, occationed by that the transgressors ware not punished according to ther merits. Your respective honors and wee most assure our selves fully that the intrest of the Scots natione comes to require that the forsaid staple contract may be again for the lycke one and twenty yeares or more may be containowed, and accordingly wee have thought it our deuty wholly and freindly to requeist your honours that the aftermentioned contract might be renewed again upon such equitable and reasonable conditiones, wherein your honours and wee could and should be fully satisfied, and that the more for that his Majestie of Great Brittaine, our gracious Lord and Marqueis of this towne, the same verie earnestly would see, lyckeas his highnes respected Majestie of Great

EDINBURGH. October 1696.

Letter from the magistrats of Campheir.

Brittain hath lyckwayes made the samen knowen to the lord conservator, which the forsaid lord conservator in your honourable meeting hath presented, as lyckwayes that with no other toune no better conditiones should or could be attained as with this towne of Campheir is made. Wee will therfor one that pairt make no doubt but that your honors should alyck with us be inclyned for to accomplish his Majesties desire, so that your honours can be weell assured that wee by all occationes shall contreive to bring to your honours all sort of satisfieing contentment, wherewith wee your honourable government doe comitt to Godes providence, with assurrance that wee shall allwayes show to be and remain, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur :* P. HEKELBEKE. Campheir, 17 December 1695. Edinburgh the 7 Jany 1696. —Translated out of the Loo Dutch originall be me. *Sic subscribitur :* ALEXR. WISHART.

Letter from the magistrats of Campheir to the royall burrows.

Honourable and respective Lords,—By occatione that two ships, each of them with twenty gunns and one hunder and thretie men, from hence are drawen for to featch of and convoy hitherwards the staple ships that ly readie, we could not refuse nor be wanting once more to doe our selves the honour but to salut your honours, and to pray that in the same conditione and gathering together ye would be pleased to make reflectione upon all old freindship and correspondance betuixt us, which hath containowed past memorie, and the good condition yow have aggreed upon for the natione, and in case yeit ther be any facility about any articles after it is required, wee shall then in respect to your honors in forwarding the tradeing and navigatione be fond in all readines. Wee could nowayes imagine that any other toune or place with your honors respect should goe on in such a favourable contract or goeing on not to be compelled. Wee thank your honors that in the last conventione ye have been pleased to resolve to lett the staple be containowed in our own toun of Campheir untill the nixt sessione. Wee shall as yeit nowayes doubt of your honours good will to us, which from all old time even untill now hath been containowed and which wee hope and firmly beleive shall yeit be containowed, and that the staple contract for tradeing shall be renewed, and to reestablish the Scots staple within this towne for soe many yeares as wee with one another shall afterwards aggree. Wee are

EDINBURGH. October 1696.

Letter from the magistrats of Campheir.

heartily sorrie that wee at present could not have a sufficient convoy to send your honours, because our capitall ships of warr are ordored to sail to ther randewous in Ingland, by the speciall comand and ordor of the King. In this caice wee freindly intreat your honours would be pleased to excuse us, being assured that in time comeing, so soon as wee shall have the honor to get tymous knowledge from your honours or from the lord conservator that certainly a fleet of staple ships lyeing at loadening and shall shortily be readie to saill, wee from tyme to tyme shall forsee to have a better and a more sufficient convoy for your honours to be carefully sent for your honours satisfactione. And not willing to importoun your honours with further wryttings wee shall as yeit referr to our last misive, of dait the 17 December 1695, adressed to your respective honours, wherwith wee comitt your honours respective persones in government to Gods providence and shall allwayes, with deutifull respects, remain, honourable and respective lords, [etc.]. Subscryved thus: FRANC DE MEY. Campheir the 14 May 1696.

Letter from the burrows to the magistrats of Campheir.

My Lords,—Wee have thought fitt to delay our ansuer to your last letter untill this tyme that wee hade occatione to send it by the lord conservator, to whom wee have delyvered the staple contract dewly signed by us, with full instructions for his manadgeing of all relaiting to that affair. You may remember that, in complyance with your desires to have the staple containowed inteir with yow untill such tyme as the articles were conserted and the contract signed, wee gave you full assurrance thereof, soe that wee make no doubt but yow have wnderstood that the Scots privieledges were in ther full exercise and that no incroatchment thairupon could be excused by any pretended interwall of tyme that was necesarie betuixt the elapseing of the old and signeing of the new contract. Wee doe with the greater willingnes accept of your appologie for the unsufficiencie and unseasonablnes of these convoyes mentioned in yours because since that tyme yow have showen your care to provyde better shipps and that wee expect yow will in tyme comeing give us no reason to complain. It is certainly weell knowen to yow that our encouragments from sewerall places in Holland were considderable and inveiting to have setled our staple with them, but the dew regaird wee hade to his Majesties inclinationes, and the old kyndnes which hes been

long containowed betuixt yow and us, did obleidge us to admitt of no competitione, and we hope that the rules of gratitude, als weell as your own intrest, will perswade not only to ane dew observance of the contract but lyckwayes to evidence all the affectione in our own and countrey mens concerns that is expected at your hands. And this leads us to tell yow of ane complaint exhibited to us by Gilbert Stewart, factor, anent ane affair of some skins wherin your magistrats were pleased to interpose ther authoritie and sentance, albeit in a subject only competent to the lord conservator and his deput, wherein wee have now desired him to exerce his jurisdictione without respect to anything that is past; as also allow us to take notice that yow have thought fitt to sustain your selves judges in a very considerable difference latly fallen out betuixt William Gordon and his wyfe, upon pretence that the contract betuixt us was ended whilst in the mean tyme yow were assured of its containwance in full force, and if yow consider that our jurisdictione ought to have been keeped inviolable as wee did your privieledges yow cannot but reflect upon the breach and so far repair it as to put that bussines in as inteir ane conditione as it was when yow medled in it, which wee undoubtedly expect. Anent which, and all other our concernes in that place, wee have given the lord conservator full credit and instructiones, and wee hope yow will upon all occationes give unto him such assistance as is dew to his character and necessarie for preserving of our privieleidges. Wee remitt to him what further is to be communicated, and wee ade no more but that wee still are, my lords, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* ARD. MURE. Edinburgh, 2 March 1697. EDINBURGH. March 1697.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 24 March 1697.

Edinburgh, John Robertsone, dean of gild, and Alexander Monteath, conveener; Pearth, Alexander Robertsone; Dundie, Patrick Yeaman; Aberdeen, John Johnstoune; Stirling, Mr Francis Neaper; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, John Muire; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, Alexander Swintoun; Kirkcaldy, Henry Oswald; Montrose, Mr James Carnegie; Dumfreise, John Reid; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Dumfermling, John Wilkie; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Peebles, Robert Forrester; Lochmaben, Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 24 March 1697. William Menzies; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamilton. (Forty-four burghs *absent.*)

24 March 1697.

Preses. 1. Sir Archibald Mure of Thorntowne, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Commissions approved. 2. The meeting revised and approved of the commissions.

Letter in favour of William Gordoun. 3. Having considered a petition by William Gordon, merchant in Campheir, the convention appointed a letter to be sent to the magistrates of Campheer in his favour.

Act anent Mr John Buchan. 4. The conventione considering that by the misive direct to them for keeping of this conventione they are desired to come instructed towards the takeing of such methods as may contribut for the releiff of the ten pounds of the taxt roll payable by unfree traders and formerly sett to Mr John Buchan and now neir to be expyred, and being of opinion that the most effectwall way for the good of the royall borrowes will be to containow the said Mr John ther tacksman for some yeares yeit to come, which they recomend to the nixt generall conventione at Pearth to doe accordingly, but in the meantyme for the said Mr John Buchan his incouragement and the support of his credit in so great advancements as he most make to the publict, they have prevailed with the good towne of Edinburgh to lend the said Mr John Buchan ten thousand marks Scots mony for the ends aforsaid, [for repayment of which the convention bound their constituents proportionally according to the tax roll].

Letters to secretaries of state. 5. Appointed two letters in favour of William Gordon, merchant in Campheir, to be written to the Earl of Tilliebairden and Sir James Ogilvie, principal secretaries of state for Scotland.

Taxt roll of the shyres. 6. Appointed a letter to be written to the secretaries of state "anent his Majesties approbatione to the taxt roll of the shyres given in by Mr John Buchan and lyeing in the clerks hands."

FOLLOWES the Letters referred to in the fifth act of last Convention.

Letter from the borrows to the magistrats of Campheir anent Willam Gordon. My Lords—Being together in a generall conventione wee have taken notice of ane letter formerly sent yow from a comity of our number toutching sewerall particulars, and especiallie ane affair of Mr Gordons,

EDINBURGH. 24 March 1697.

Letter from the borrows to the magistrats of Campheir anent William Gordon.

and as wee doe weell approve what was written by the comity one that subject soe wee think ourselves at this occatione obleidged to give yow our farder thoughts therof. Yow may remember that by condition betuixt yow and us and assurance one both sides our jurisdictione and privieledges in the Netherlandes, als weell as the immunities aryseing to yow from the staple contract, should be inviolably keept untill the renewing therof, and wee are confident that no breatch hes been made on our pairts, soe that wee hade much confidence of the same treatment and correspondance from yow, and it surprizes us exceedingly to have receaved a demonstratione to the contrary, wherof Mr Gordons caice is a cleir instance, which wee beleive your own inclinationes could never have produced if yow hade not been imposed upon by the pernicious influences of designeing men who to gratifie ther ends haue verie much exposed yow. It were needles to look back on the steps have been made in that bussines, and thairfor wee shall only desire and expect that so soon as this reatches yow yow may without delay procure Mr Gordon to be put in the same conditione he was befor yow medled in his affair and let it be tabled befor the lord conservator or his deputs to doe justice thairin as he shall sie cause, and quheranent wee have given him full instructiones. Wee judge it unnecessarie to spend many words upon this subject to men of your prudence, only know that the royall borrowes are unanimously of opinion that your dipping in Mr Gordons bussines is a papable breach of our privieledges and nothing but a present repairatione of it in the termes wee have spock of can make us digest what is past, and if ane speedy accompt shall not come of your giveing full satisfaction in this matter it will be taken under consideratione at the nixt generall conventione in Jully, and beyond all doubt will be understood and construed as a sufficient ground to break up correspondence. Wee most also tell yow that being informed some of our ships haue been long detained for want of convoyes wee desire it may be quickly remeidit by your spedie provisione of sufficient convoyes, that no more reason may be giuen to complain heirefter, since the French privatteers are in squadrons on our coasts. This wee hope ye will endeavour to prevent as yow would testifie that affectione for us which upon all occationes yow may expect from your most humble servants, [etc.]. *Sic subscribitur:* ARD. MURE, P. Edinburgh 27 March 1697.

EDINBURGH. 24 March 1697.

Letter to the secretaries of state anent Gordon's affair.

My Lord.—The royall borrowes were together in a generall conventione which wes called for consideratione of what measours were most proper to be taken to secure the payment of the taxt roll dew by the unfree tradders of this kingdome upon the accompt of the comunicatione of trade allowed to them by act of parliament, especiallie now when Mr Buchans tack is so neir expired. My lord, the conventione hes a deip sense of your lordships concerne for them, both when they hade the honour of your lordship being a member, and allwayes since, which makes them to presume upon the containowance of your lordships favor and protectione. Wee doe by this represent to your lordship ane considerable lesione done to our privieledges in the Netherlands by the magistrats of Campheir medleing in ane affair of one William Gordon, our countrie man, wherby he hes been most untenderly treated to his verie great prejudice as wee are informed. This being ane manifest invasione upon us who have the sole jurisdictione in all matters relaiting to Scots men in the Netherlands, and now understanding that this bussines is tabled before the court of justice at Hague, wee desire your lordship may be pleased to interpose with the King that the court of justice ther may desist and referr it absolutly to the conservator to doe justice therin as he shall sie cause. Your lordships assistance and patrocinij in this matter will be considerit by us as ane new demonstratione which most obleidge the royall borrows to oune themselves, my lord, [etc.]. *Sic subscribitur:* ARD. MURE. Edinburgh 27 June 1697.

PERTH. 6 July 1697.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* PERTH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, John Robertsone, dean of gild, and Alexander Monteath, conveener; Perth, David Murray; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Mr John Johnstoune; Stirling, Mr Francis Neaper; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, James Smith; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, John Mure; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, Alexander Swintoun; Kirkcaldy, James Bosewald; Montrose, Robert Rennalds; Coupar, David Malcolme; Anstruther Easter, James Lausone; Dumfreis, Robert Johnstoun; Invernese, Alexander Duff; Inverkeithing, Alexander Spittell; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Brechin, Alexander Young; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Mr William Sympsone; Wigtoune, John M'Keand; Pittenweem, George Smyth; Dumferm-

ling, John Chalmers; Anstruther Wester, Henry Beattie; Selkirk, James Mitchellhill; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Patrick Houstoune; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Archibald Sympsone; Aberbrothock, William Auchterlony; Elgine, George Chalmers; Peebles, Archibald Sheills; Craill, William Crawfurd; Tayne, Charles Hay; Culross, Robert Blair; Bamff, John Mark; Whythorn, John Candish; Forfar, James Dicksone; Nairne, Alexander Orr; Forras, Thomas Forsyth; Rutherglen, John Scot; Kilrennie, Thomas Peacock; Annan, Mr William Johnstoune; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Sanquhair, James Hunter; Queensferry, Walter Dalgleish; Fortrose, Daniel Sympsone; Kintoir, John Tulloch; Inverurie, John Fergusone; Innerara, Hugh Browne. (Thirteen burghs *absent.*) PERTH. 6 July 1697. Sederunt.

6 July 1697.

1. James Crie, lord provost of Perth, elected preses. Preses.
2. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed. Alleadgiance and assurance.
3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.
4. Approved of the commissions, dispensing with objections against some of them. Approving commissions.
5. Appointed a committee to consider the missive and other things happening to come before the convention. Generall comittie.
6. Continued, and appointed to be heads of next general missive, articles referring to qualifications of commissioners, stopping gifts and monopolies, difference between Lord Traquhair and the burgh of Peebles, and the harbour of Northberwick. Continuing heads of missive.
7. Referring to the 20th act of the general convention in July 1696, the convention granted warrant for citing Marthias Partes and the town of Annan to next general convention. Towne of Dumfreice.
8. The convention having heard "several complaints against Ewen MacGrigor and his pairtners of the manufactorie of old broad cairds at Leith," appointed a committee to consider any complaints and defend any proceedings at his instance. Anent M'Grigor and partners.
9. The convention elected John Wardlaw, merchant, burgess of Edinburgh, "to be generall post and borrow officer to the royall borrowes, vaccand by the decease of George Moncur, lait borrow officer," and also elected James Moncur, son of the late officer, "to succeed to the said John Wardlaw after his decease." John Wardlaw, borrow officer.

8 July 1697.

10. Agreed to the admission of Patrick Gelly, merchant in Campheir, to be factor at the staple port there. Gellie, factor.
11. The convention having heard a memorial by Mr John Buchan, agent, as

PERTH. 8 July 1697.

Act anent Mr John Buchan.

to the manner of his relieving the burghs of £10 Scots of the tax roll, they find that from Lammas 1692 to Whitsunday 1697, inclusive, there has been thirty-eight months' cess imposed by act of parliament, the total sum payable by him amounting, at £100 monthly, to £3800 sterling, of which he has only paid £2300 sterling. The convention appointed him to produce discharges by the general receivers for that sum, and at the general convention in July 1698 to produce a discharge for the balance of £1500.

Ratification to William Cleghorn of the Society, Edinburgh.

12. The convention ratified, approved, and confirmed to William Cleghorne, brewer, burgess of Edinburgh, and Bethia Brand his spouse, a charter granted by the town council of Edinburgh, dated 11th June 1697, of "all and haill that peice of ground comonly called the Society, with the haill houses, biggings, lofts, bairnes, brewaries, and brewloomes belonging therto, and haill pertinentis of the samen, together with the old yaird lyeing in the town of Leith at the bridge end therof," for the yearly payment of £1000 Scots in name of feu duty, and £1500 Scots at the entry of every heir.

10 July 1697.

Building of a Scots Kirk at Knoningsberg.

13. Anent the petitione given in by Francis Hay, merchant in Koningsberg in Pruscia, mentioneing that where our brethren of the Scotish natione residing in the said city of Koningsberg and the ministers and elders of the reformed church there having obtained permissione of the prince elector of Brandeburgh and the thrie estaits of the said duchy, to build the fabrick of ane church for there publick worship within the said city, did accordingly comence the building of the samen, but finding themselves utterly unable without some considerable assistance and supply from others weel wishers of the church of Christ to perfect the said work, did send over to this kingdome, by the hands of your petitioner, ane humble address directed to the venerable general assembly of this nationall church, or in ther absence to the reverend commissioners of the church deputed by them, earnestly intreating that they would lay themselves furth for procureing some considerable assistance from the churches of this kingdome that so good a work might not dye in the birth, in complyance wherewith the saids commissionars presented ane petitione to his Majesties most honorabill privie councill, humbly praying ther lordships to authorize and allow ane generall collectione (for the end aforsaid) to be made throughout the whole churches and paroches of this kingdome, and accordingly ther lordships of privie councill did grant the desire of the

said petitione and further did allow the respective presbiteries and ministers concerned aither to make the said collectione at ther church doors, or by the ministers, elders, and deacons from house to house as they should think most convenient, as the said humble address, petitione, and act forsaid of his Majesties privie councill (wherof the print coppies are heirwith exhibited) more fully bears; in pursuance of which act the said reverend commissionars of the generall assembly did by ther act (bearing date the fyfth day of May last) recomend the makeing of the said collectione effectwall to all the ministers, elders, deacons, and good protestants within this kingdome, and that alsweel in vaccand churches as those that are planted, and sicklyke the provincial synod of Loathian and Twedale did by ane act of ther meetting of the sixt day of the said moneth of May seriously recomend the same to all ministers within ther province, as the print coppies of the saids two acts doo lyckwayes more fully proport; and the petitioner being weel assured of your pious inclinations to so good and necesar a work, and that your countenance, aid, and concurrance therein may not a little contribut toward the rendering of the same effectwall, creaveing therfor that ye would be pleased to contribut your serious endeavours that such methods and measours may be taken within the severall cities and burghs whom you now represent as may be most conduceing to render so pious a work effectwall, by which ye will not only give a plain testimony of your sincere affectione to the true reformed protestant religione and your brethren and countrymen, but lyckwayes will entail a blessing upon your selfes and your posterity, as the petition bears. Which being heard, read, and considered by the conventione, they grant the desire thereof and heirby seriously recomends to the respective royall borrowes of this kingdome to give ther outmost assistance and concurrence to the said collectione to be collected by the magistrats of each royall burgh, or any others they shall appoint for that effect, from house to house, within ther bounds, conforme to the saides acts of his Majesties privie council, generall assembly, and provincial synod of Loathian and Twedale in all poynts.

PERTH. 10 July 1697. Building of a Scots Kirk at Koningsberg.

14. Remitted to a committee to consider and determine as they shall see cause in regard to several missives from the lord conservator anent the staple port, and to return such answers to the magistrates of Campheir as they think fit. Comitty anent the staple port.

15 It being proposed by the convention whether or not it be the

PERTH. 10 July 1697.

Common good of burghs.

interest of the borrows that each burgh shal at the next generall conventione bring in a true stated accompt of ther wholl comon good to be recorded in ther books by ther clerk, to the end that no delapidations may be made of any pairt of ther comon good in tyme comeing, without the knowledge of the royall borrowes, and to report ther opinion to the nixt generall conventione.

12 July 1697.

Brichon 500 merks.

16. Having considered the report of the visitors of Brichen, the convention allowed that burgh 500 merks "towards the present repairatione of ther bridge, tolbooth, and school."

Bruntisland.

17. Having considered a petition by Bruntisland, the convention appointed four burghs "to visit the caice and conditione of the said burgh as to ther comon good and debts and report to the nixt general convention;" and in the meantime the burgh not to be troubled for arrears of missive dues.

Kenneth Mackenzie.

18. Remitted to a committee "the complaint given in by Keneth Mackenzie, skipper in Leith, against Archibald Weightman, merchant in Roterdam."

Dornoch.

19. Having considered a petition by Dornoch, the convention discharged that burgh of all bygone missive dues, amounting to £175 Scots.

Address to the Kings Majesty.

20. May it please your Majestie. Wee your royall burrowes having by your Majesties allowance entered upon termes of setleing our staple port at the toune of Campheir and instructed Mr Andrew Kennedie, conservator, for that effect, wee are credibly informed that the magistrats of Campheir have made invasion upon our privicledges in that place, pretending that from the expiratione of the former staple contract wee hade no jurisdictione untill the new contract were perfyted, whereas upon the contrarie it was aggreed betuixt us and them that in regaird wee were firmly resolved (by reason of your Majesties inclinationes towards that place) to containow our staple there, that in the meantyme all things should containow betuixt us in the same maner as they were during the tyme of the contract, and yeit, notwithstanding, considerable breaches have been made by these magistrates, and the Scots jurisdictione hes been palpably incroatched upon by sewerall instances which wee desired the conservator at length to inform your Majestie, and therefor wee are confident your Majestie will think it suitable to the weellfare of your royall burrowes that they may be repaired of the injuries done them and be assured that no such breaches shal be made heirafter, and in the mean-

time untill the samen be done the perfyteing of the new contract be delayed. This is humbly represented by your royall burrowes, may it please your Majesty, your Majestys most faithfull, loyall, obedient and most humble subjects and servants, the commissionars of the royall burghs of your Majesties ancient kingdome. Signed, [etc.] Perth 12 July 1697.

PERTH. 12 July 1697. Address to the Kings Majesty.

21. The convention considering that "it will be ther intrest and advantage "that Mr John Buchan, advocat, ther agent, should containow ther tacksman for the unfrie trad of this kingdome according to ther tack sett to him by the conventione at Dundie j^m^ vj^c^ nynty tuo yeares . . . the which tack and contract hes been since syne explained by the parliament anno j^m^ vj^c^ ninty thrie yeares and by decreits of the lords of sessione and proclamation of councill followeing therupon, and seeing the said Mr John Buchan hath wndertaken and entered unto ane new contract" for the space of three years from Lammas 1697 and two years longer if he pleases to continue, therefore they disponed "to the said Mr John Buchan the sole and universall power from the dait of thir presents, which the royall borrowes hes, conforme to the acts of parliament, decreitis of the lords of sessione, and proclamations of privie councill followeing therupon, and acts of general conventiones, conform to the same termes and conditiones of his former tack, and accepted be the said Mr John Buchan upon the expres provisione aftermentioned." If he use his utmost diligence for recovery of the cess and missive dues the royal burghs are to relieve him of all loss and damage he may sustain. As he has to advance considerable sums, the royal burghs, for supporting his credit, oblige themselves as cautioners for 10,000 merks to any person who shall lend the same; for relief whereof and of 10,000 merks already undertaken by the burghs and borrowed from the good town of Edinburgh, John Buchan disponed as much of the cess and missive dues owing by the several shires and unfree trades as will satisfy said sum. The convention also appointed him to give in an account and report discharges of his payments yearly to the convention. The commissioner of Aberdeen protested against the burghs undertaking the caution.

Act, renewing Mr John Buchan's tack of the unfree trade.

22. The conventione haveing heard the caice of the town of Innerara, and searched the borrow registers theranent, they find that the said burgh was inrolled in anno j^m^ vj^c^ fourtie nyne yeares, upon the Marqueis of Argyle's promise to few out the towne, holding of the King in free burgage, and that the said burgh was never in the taxt roll till anno j^m^ vj^c^ nynty yeares; and upon the representatione of ther commissioner, anno j^m^ vj^c^ nyntie four, Falkland was to have releived them of two shillings of the stent roll, and the agent to advance the samen upon conditione the burgh

Act in favours of Innerara.

PERTH. 12 July 1697.

Act in favours of Innerara.

should pay the remander; which being considered be the conventione they appoint the burghes of Edinburgh and Dumbartoun to attend my lord Argyle to know what is done in that matter relating to the town's holding of the King in free burgage, and in the meantyme, because the towne of Innerara has no patrimonie or casualitie, appoyntes the agent to discharge them of the soume of ane hundreth and fourty four pounds Scots resting of the bygone misive dewes preceeding Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seaven yeares instant.

Pittenweem, 500 merks.

23. Appointed the agent to pay to the town of Pittenweem 500 merks Scots "to be applyed by them towards the reparatione of ther peir and harbour, and recomends to the sewerall borrowes to give a voluntar contributione for so good a work."

13 July 1697.

Representatives of James Stewart.

24. Remitted to the committee appointed to meet after this convention a petition by the representatives of the deceased James Stewart, merchant in Dundie.

Burgh of Perth.

25. Having considered a petition by the burgh of Perth, the convention "grant warrand to the present magistrats of Perth and ther successores in office to few out such parcells and pairts of the comon mure as they shall think most convenient, or otherwayes to set tacks thereof for nynteen or twenty one yeirs at ther pleasour, as also to sett ther milnes, Inches and fishings for the space of seaven or nyne yeares in tacks to any person who shall offer most therfor, by the advyce of the burghs of Dundie, Stirling and Montrose or any two of them."

Lanerk.

26. Appointed the agent to pay to the burgh of Lanerk 500 merks towards the building of their bridge whenever the same is founded, which is to be expended at the sight and be the advice of Sir Thomas Stewart of Coltness.

Forras, Aberbrothock, Bamff, Nairn, St Andrews, Kinghorne, Innerurie.

27-34. Having considered petitions given in by the burghs afternamed, the convention appointed committees to visit (27) the burgh of Forras and take inspectione of their tolbooth; (28) the caise and condition of the burgh of Aberbrothock and the decay of their pier and harbour; (29) the burgh of Bamff and take inspection of their harbour; (30) the burgh of Nairn and take trial and inspection of their tolbooth and repair of their bridge; (31) the harbour of St Andrews; (33) the burgh of Kinghorn and take inspection of their pier, harbour, and the road leading up the Pittiecurr; and (34) the burgh of Innerury and take tryall of their common good and what condition they are in "and alse to take inspectione of that place where they desire the bulwork." All the committees were appointed to give in their reports to next general convention.

Relict of conservator.

35. Having considered the petition of Helen Strachan, relict of the deceased

Sir James Kennedie, lord conservator, the convention allowed her £5 "of present supply." PERTH. 13 July 1697.

36. Exempted the burghs of Sanquhair, Dingwall, Cullen, Fortrose, Anstruther Wester, Northberwick, Lochmaben, Wigetoune, Dornoch, Whythorn and Kilrenny from attending conventions for the space of three years. Exemptions.

36*a*. The conventione declaires that whensoever any fond shall happen in favours of the royall borrowes wherby they may be enabled to ease any of ther number that then the enshewing conventione shal take under speciall consideration the burghs of Air, Dumfreise, Irvine, Dumbartoun, Wigetowne, Dumfermling, Kinghorn and Stanraer for getting ane ease in the taxt roll accordingly, and they to be first considered befor any other royall burgh and eased as said is. Act in favour of Ayr, etc.

37. In terms of the 25th act of the general convention in July 1696 the agent reported the burghs in arrear of missive dues, and the convention declared "this act to be a sufficient exoneration to such burghs as have payed in ther proportion of the said missive dewes altho ther discharges be lost." Missive dewes.

38. Anent the petition given in by the burgh of St Andrews, mentioneing that they have obtained ane decreit *in foro* against the university of the said burgh, wherby the lords of sessione after full hearing fand that the burgh of St Andrews being erected in a burgh upwards of two hundred years befor the erection of the university could not be prejudged in thair jurisdictione by any posterior gift granted in favours of the university, whereupon they did give in ane bill which is appointed to be seen and ansuered, and the petitioners being nowayes able to mantain thair privieledges or defend the said plea any longer without the royall borrowes assistance, creaveing thairfor that they appoynt thair agent to defend them on the publict expences of the borrowes, as the petition bears; which being considered be the conventione they grant the desir therof and appoynts the agent to defend the towne of St Andrews just rycht against the university therof till the nixt generall convention, on the publict expences of the borrowes, not exceeding fyve hundreth marks. Burgh of St Andrews.

39. On petition of the burgh of Anstruther Easter the convention appointed a committee to visit the burgh and report its condition. Anstruther Easter.

40. The conventione haveing considered the petition given in by the Burgh of Tayne.

PERTH. 12 July 1697.

Act in favours of Innerara.

should pay the remander; which being considered be the conventione they appoint the burghes of Edinburgh and Dumbartoun to attend my lord Argyle to know what is done in that matter relating to the town's holding of the King in free burgage, and in the meantyme, because the towne of Innerara has no patrimonie or casualitie, appoyntes the agent to discharge them of the soume of ane hundreth and fourty four pounds Scots resting of the bygone misive dewes preceeding Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seaven yeares instant.

Pittenweem, 500 merks.

23. Appointed the agent to pay to the town of Pittenweem 500 merks Scots "to be applyed by them towards the reparatione of ther peir and harbour, and recomends to the sewerall borrowes to give a voluntar contributione for so good a work."

13 July 1697.

Representatives of James Stewart.

24. Remitted to the committee appointed to meet after this convention a petition by the representatives of the deceased James Stewart, merchant in Dundie.

Burgh of Perth.

25. Having considered a petition by the burgh of Perth, the convention "grant warrand to the present magistrats of Perth and ther successores in office to few out such parcells and pairts of the comon mure as they shall think most convenient, or otherwayes to set tacks thereof for nynteen or twenty one yeirs at ther pleasour, as also to sett ther milnes, Inches and fishings for the space of seaven or nyne yeares in tacks to any person who shall offer most therfor, by the advyce of the burghs of Dundie, Stirling and Montrose or any two of them."

Lanerk.

26. Appointed the agent to pay to the burgh of Lanerk 500 merks towards the building of their bridge whenever the same is founded, which is to be expended at the sight and be the advice of Sir Thomas Stewart of Coltness.

Forras, Aberbrothock, Bamff, Nairn, St Andrews, Kinghorne, Innerurie.

27-34. Having considered petitions given in by the burghs afternamed, the convention appointed committees to visit (27) the burgh of Forras and take inspectione of their tolbooth; (28) the caise and condition of the burgh of Aberbrothock and the decay of their pier and harbour; (29) the burgh of Bamff and take inspection of their harbour; (30) the burgh of Nairn and take trial and inspection of their tolbooth and repair of their bridge; (31) the harbour of St Andrews; (33) the burgh of Kinghorn and take inspection of their pier, harbour, and the road leading up the Pittiecurr; and (34) the burgh of Innerury and take tryall of their common good and what condition they are in "and alse to take inspectione of that place where they desire the bulwork." All the committees were appointed to give in their reports to next general convention.

Relict of conservator.

35. Having considered the petition of Helen Strachan, relict of the deceased

PERTH. 13 July 1697.

Burgh of Tayne.

burgh of Tayne, mentioneing that where ther caice and condition and repairatione of ther church, steeple, and tolbooth hes been a head of the misive thir severall yeares by past, and that they are most unjustly leased and oppressed by Captain Hugh Mackay, who hes seased and apprehended some of our inhabitants tradeing with packs, after ther ordinary maner, and did rob and take away the best pairt of ther packs and beat and bruise them, which is a manifest and hye ryot and contrair to the privieledges of the royall borrowes, as is at more length contained in the said petition, they for the reasones forsaid appoints the repairation of ther kirk, steeple and tolbooth, to be a head of the nixt generall missive, and remitts to the burghs of Invernese, Fortrose, and Nairn, or any tuo of them, to meet with the petitioners and call for the said Captain Hugh Mackay and examin the whole matter and use their outmost endeavour to accomodat the samen, and in caice they cannot aggrie upon report of the said comitty to the clerk and agent representing the whole affair, impowers the agent to concurr with and assist [their] petitioners in prosecuting the said Captain Hugh Mackay befor the lords of his Majesties privie councill on the publict accompts of the borrowes, and recomends to the comitty that sits at Edinburgh after disolveing of this conventione, in caice the said persute shall be intented befor the privie councill, to concurr with and give ther assistance therunto, wheranent this shal be their warrant; and grants exemptione to the said burgh for thrie yeares from attending generall or particular conventiones of borrowes.

Taxt roll altered.

41. [The convention, by a majority, approved of the report of a committee and appointed the tax roll following "to be the settled and established rule in tyme comeing for collecting and ingathering the publict cess and missive dewes."]

	Lib.	s.	d.		Lib.	s.	d.
Edinburgh	40	0	0	Dyssart	0	3	0
Perth	2	8	0	Kirkcaldie	1	12	8
Dundie	4	0	0	Montrose	1	6	8
Aberdeen	4	10	0	Coupar	0	15	0
Stirling	1	2	0	Anstruther Easter	0	2	0
Lithgow	1	10	0	Dumfreise	1	18	4
St Andrews	0	8	0	Invernese	1	2	0
Glasgow	15	0	0	Bruntisland	0	6	0
Air	1	1	4	Innerkeithing	0	5	0
Hadingtoun	1	2	0	Kinghorn	0	7	0

	Lib.	s.	d.		Lib.	s.	d.
Brechine	0	7	0	Rutherglen	0	2	0
Irvine	0	10	0	Northberwick	0	1	0
Jedburgh	1	6	0	Cullen	0	1	0
Kirkcudbright	0	6	0	Lauder	0	5	0
Wigetoune	0	6	0	Kilrennie	0	1	0
Pittenweem	0	3	0	Annan	0	2	0
Dumfermling	0	14	0	Lochmaben	0	1	0
Anstruther Wester	0	1	0	Sanquhair	0	1	0
Selkirk	0	10	0	Galloway	0	1	0
Dumbartoun	0	5	0	Dingwall	0	1	0
Rhenfrew	0	4	0	Dornoch	0	1	0
Dumbar	0	8	0	Queensferrie	0	7	0
Lanerk	0	9	0	Fortrose	0	2	0
Aberbrothock	0	7	0	Kintoir	0	1	0
Elgine	0	18	0	Innerurie	0	1	0
Peebles	0	10	0	Innerara	0	1	0
Craill	0	4	0	Week	0	3	0
Tayne	0	4	0	Kirkwall	0	12	0
Culross	0	3	0	Inverbrevie	0	1	0
Bamff	0	6	0	Stanraer	0	2	0
Whythorn	0	1	0	Mr John Buchan, for regalities and baronies	10	0	0
Forfar	0	3	0				
Rothesay	0	5	0				
Nairn	0	1	0				
Forras	0	3	0	Summa est	100	0	0

PERTH. 13 July 1697. Taxt roll altered.

Against which the commissioners for Edinburgh, for themselves and in name and behalf of ther constituents and all others that will adheire to them, gave in the followeing protestatione against the present taxt roll, whereof the tenor followes:—The commissioners for Edinburgh, for themselves and in name and behalf of ther constituents, doe heirby protest against the proportion of the taxt roll now laid upon the said good toun and of all payment conform therto, for the reasones followeing, viz.:—In regaird that the royall borrowes did appoint visitors to inspect the conditione of the whole royall burghs within this kingdome, anno 1691, which visitatione wes accordingly performed and the town of Edinburgh wes particularly visited by the hail four visitors and a report made and given in to the conventione at Dundie, Jully 1692, which are sealed and lyes in the clerk to the borrowes hands, and is the only rule whereby the condi- Protestatione.

PERTH. 13 July 1697.

Taxt roll altered. Protestatione.

tione of the sewerall burghs can be knowen, yeit, notwithstanding, the generall conventione hath proceeded to tax the said town of Edinburgh at great randum and without takeing notice to the visitors report, which is contrair to law and reason.—(2$^{do.}$) It being uncontraverted that the subject of the tax roll is the trade of the kingdome, and for which the burden layed upon the borrowes is payed, soe that in the makeing up of the tax roll it is the certain and only rule that each burgh be taxed according to there trade, which hath not been observed in this caice in so far as, albeit it was offered to be proven and still is, that the present trade of Glasgow is fully equivalent to the present trade of Edinburgh, wherby in reason these tuo burghs ought to bear ane equall proportione in the tax roll, yeit, notwithstanding, the town of Edinburgh is palpably injured being made near three tymes as much as Glasgow.—(3$^{tio.}$) In the laying on of a tax roll ther ought to be candid and plain dealings and no preoccuppatione of the members upon promises of gratificationes and eases, but so it is that unwarrantable methods hath been used in the present distributione of the taxt roll; and therfor upon the forsaid reasone and others forsaid the saides commissionars doe protest for coast, skaith, damnadge, and for remead of law; and therupon took instruments. Wherupon Hugh Broun, commissionar for Innerara, adhered to the said protestatione and therupon took instruments.

Answeris to the protestatioun.

(1$^{o.}$) It is answered that altho the abovesaid report wes in reddines to be given in by the visitors appoynted as said is, yeit, notwithstanding, the then commissionars for the towne of Edinburgh, being affrayed of a considerable augmentatione in the tax roll by the said report, did prevail with Mr John Buchan to take upon him the tenth pairt of the tax roll for the freedome of trade to the burghs of barronies and regalities, which the said Mr John haveing condescend to the conventione appointed, by ther act Jully 1692, that the said report should be sealled by the seal of the provost of Dundie, then preses, to lye *in retentis* till the conventione should think fit to call for it, but so it is that the said report hath never yeit been called for by any member either at this or any prior conventione nor by the toun of Edinburgh itself untill now that the tax roll was fullie concluded by the comitty, wherof the town of Edinburgh was members, and the report of the said comitty was made in full conventione and allowed by them; neither can it be thought reasonable that the said

report can be now a rule for proportioneing the said tax roll after so long tyme as fyve yeares, ther being now a great alteratione of the conditione of these burghs then visited from what they were at that tyme. (2$^{do.}$) It is answered that the comitty did deal with all candor and ingenuity in lyeing on of the said tax roll, haveing fully heard the toune of Edinburgh by ther representatione given in in wryt, as also, *viva voce*, concerneing ther trade and conditione, and considering that ther are other subject for a taxt then meir trade, as also haveing heard the commissionar for Glasgow answer against the said representation that they did setle the taxt roll as is now given in to the conventione. (3$^{tio.}$) It is answered that this third reasone being a calumnious and malitious reflectione against the candor of the comity it ought to meet with a severe rebuik, no such practises being used unless by these of the toune of Edinburgh, as is nottour to the whole conventione.

PERTH. 13 July 1697.

Taxt roll altered.

Answeris to the protestatioun.

Walter Stewart, comissioner for Lithgow, protested against his being hightened in the tax roll and gave in his protestatione, subscrived with his hand, quhich was read, and adheired to the protestationes given in by the commissioners for Edinburgh and therupon took instruments. As also Mr William Jonstoun, commissioner for Annan, gave in ane protestatione, subscrivit with his hand, quhich was read, adheiring to the protestationes given in by the commissioners for Edinburgh and thairupon took instruments; to both which protestationes the conventione oppons the ansuer given in to the town of Edinburghs protestationes.

Protestations.

42. The following items are included in the agent's accounts from Whitsunday 1696 to Whitsunday 1697, which amount to £15,726, 15s. 8d. Scots:

Agents accompts approven.

"Imprimis, to the managers of the Affrican and East India Company,	£9,000
Item, for printing the lettres to this convention, ...	36
Item, to the dispatching of the lettres to the generall meeting in March, ...	36
Item, for wryting two principall coppies of the staple contract .	18."

43. The conventione considering ane representatione given in by the commissionars for Brichen bearing that endeavours are used contrair to the old sett and constitutione of the said burgh to remove the present magistrats from being counsellors the year immediately enshewing ther office of magistracie, which may be of dangerous consequence to the state of borrowes, therefor enact and ordaine that not only the magistrats of

Magistrates and councillors.

PERTH. 13 July 1697.

Magistrates and councillors.

Brichen shall be continwed counsellors for the year immediatly enshewing ther office of magistracie, but lyckwayes the haill other royall borrowes whois custome it hes been to containow ther magistrates counsellours for the year enshewing ther removall from the office of magistracie, shall be inviolably observed in tyme comeing, but prejudice allwayes to such burghs as haue there sett and constitutione otherwayes to containow as formerly.

Ridpath, agent, act declared null.

44. The conventione rescindes the 14 act of the generall conventione in Jully 1695 ellecting Mr George Ridpeth to be agent to the royall borrowes and declaires the samen void and null in all the heads, clauses, and articles therof.

Sir John Shaw of Greenock.

45. The conventione haveing considered the representatione given in by Sir John Shaw of Greenock, they declaire that the said Sir John cannot be allowed to vote in this or any other meeting of the royall borrowes, but in regaird he now bears a proportione of the taxt roll as being a heritor of ane burgh of barronie, and that he hes assisted the royall borrowes sewerall tymes for makeing the proportione led on the burghs of barronies and regalities effectwall, as has been publictly acknowledged by Mr John Buchan, ther agent and tacksman, therefor and for certain other considerationes the convention allows the said Sir John Shaw to be present at this or any other meeting of the royall burrowes heirafter, and there to give informatione and advyce anent the trade of the burghs as weell royall as others; as also they recomend to Mr John Buchan, ther tacksman, to deal descreetly and favourably with the said Sir John anent his proportion of the taxt roll, and farder recomends to the members of the comity that are to sitt at Edinburgh to endeavour ane accomodatione betuixt the town of Glasgow and the said Sir John, and in caice they doe not prevail, to report to the nixt generall conventione, declaireing heirby that this favour shall not be a leading caice or a preparative to any other without the conventions allowance.

Anstruther Wester.

46. Having considered petition of Anstruther Wester, the convention "recomend to the burghs of Coupar, Craill and St Andrews to meet with the commissioners of supply for the shire of Fyfe and to adjust the differences anent the malitia betuixt the said burgh and the said comissioners."

George Moncur's sone.

47. Authorised the committee appointed to meet at Edinburgh to allow £100 or 200 merks, at their option, "to James Moncur, sone to the deceast

George Moncur, late borrow officer, for puting him to a trade." Also remitted to the committee "to speak with the Viscount of Strathallan anent the toll of his fairs at Dublane which is represented as a grievance by severall borrows." PERTH. 13 July 1697.

48. The convention having considered petition of Sanquhar, appointed the agent to pay £10 sterling "towards the repairation of the tolbooth of the said burgh." Sanquhair.

49. The conventione haveing considered the sixt article of the missive, wherby ther clerk is appointed to revise the acts of the generall and particular conventiones and to make ane compend or abreviat of the saids acts, and he haveing in obedience therto presented ane compend of the saids acts to this present year, containeing the whole materiall acts, constitutiones, and policy of the state of borrowes, and which compend being considered and perused by the conventione they in respect of his personall pains therin and care of their affaires grant him in gratuity one thousand marks, and ordains the agent to pay the same; and finding the said compend to be necessarie and usefull for sewerall burghs to have in ther custodie, he is heirby obleidged to give them coppies therof when called for to any burgh, for payment of the wryting at thair discretione; and the conventione recomends to the clerk to make ane abreviat of the said compend and he to report his dilligence to the nixt generall conventione. Abbreviat of acts of burghs, clerk.

50. Allowed to the agent £600 Scots of gratuity. Agent, gratuity.

51. The convention, "in consideration of the kynd and readie service performed to them by the publict servants of the burgh of Perth," allowed £20 sterling to be divided amongst them. Servants of Perth.

52, 53. Allowed certain sums to the clerk's and agent's servants, the presenter of signatures, macers and others. Allowances to servants.

54. The convention appointed a committee "to visit the caice and conditione of the burgh of Peebles and of ther bridges and school house;" and another committee to "visit the conditione of the burgh of Fortrose and of ther tolbooth and schoolhouse;" and report to be made to next general convention. Peebles, Fortrose.

55. Allowed to the clerk's servants "ten dollars for writing the compend." Clerks servants.

56. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Aberdeen in July 1698. Also unlawed the absent burghs in £100 Scots each. Convention dissolved. Unlaws for absence.

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1697.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, John Robertson ; Dundie, Patrick Yeaman ; Aberdeen, James Gordon ; Air, John Mure ; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar ; Montrose, Robert Rennalds ; Invernese, Alexander Duff ; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet ; Lochmaben, William Menzies ; Innerara, Hugh Broune. (Glasgow, Dyssart, Kirkcaldie, and Irvine, *absent.*)

22 July 1697.

Preses. 1. John Robertsone, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Letters from the royal burghs. 2. [The committee, conform to the 14th act of last general convention, directed the following letters to the conservator and magistrates of Campheer :]

(1.) To the lord conservator. My Lord.—Your two letters, both of the dait the $\frac{11}{21}$ June, and the memorialls sent therwith, were all read in presence of the generall conventione laitly held at Perth. Your great care and dilligence in these matters was verie much approven and comended by the conventione, but because it would have taken up much tyme to have considered the same in plain conventione, they did therfor remitt to a comitty of ther number the particular consideratione therof, as ye will perceave by the inclosed act to that purpose, which wee have transmitted, not as apprehending yow were to doubt the comities authority but to satisfie yow that the conventione did soe far limitt our power as wee cannot dispence with your concluding of the staple contract untill first dew satisfaction be given of former breaches and reimbursement be made of the charges and expences occationed in the affair of Mr Gordon. One of your letters mentiones that yow have gott satisfactione as to your preliminaries, and that yow were readie to enter upon the articles of the contract, and desireing that the conventione would advyse yow what yow are to demand farder then what is contained in your former instructions, as to which wee think that it will be necessary to take full assurrance that no breach or violatione shall be for heirafter made upon the Scots jurisdictione, but they shall be intirely and inviolably observed ; as also that full satisfactione be given of your own and sons expences and of Maisters Gordon and M'Kenzies damnadge and expences

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1697.

(1.) To the lord conservator.

sustained be them through the magistrats of Campheirs medleing in ther affairs. We remitt what farder may be proper to your own prudence, beleiveing allwayes that ye will demand nothing which is not necessarie both for the honour and intrest of the Scots natione. As to the affair of Mr Hoge, some of our number were appointed to attend the presbitrie of Edinburgh, which accordingly they did on Wednesday last and gave in reasones why he ought not to have been transported, but the presbitrie wes notwithstanding pleased to vote his transportatione from Campheir to Clackmanan against the moneth of March next enshewing, and in remuneratione the presbitrie hes offered ther concurrance in provideing the toun of Campheir with ane other fitt persone so soone as it shall be desired. Wee did not imagine that the presbitrie would have gott over the reasones were given them for retaining Mr Hoge at Campheir, as being in our humble opinion a great deal more weighty and convinceing then anything offered in the contrary, but wee understand the trew caus was that Mr Hoge was under discouragements at Campheir and therfor they thought it ther deuty to embrace the occatione for bringing him home to his oun countrey. Wee think it will be seasonable to remember these two articles anent the poores money and metsters, and wee desire that now when yow are about the setleing of the staple contract, the poors mony and bygone intrest therof may be delyvered to yow and the minister, and by your ordor so disposed of as may be made furthcomeing for the use of the poor; as also that in time comeing it be provided that a Scotsman may be a mettster alsweell as any other, and particularly if yow think fitt that one Walter Younger may be the man to be presently choosen. As to your own particular, it was spocken of at some length in the generall conventione, and albeit all the members were satisfied that your care, dilligence, and expences in ther affairs did deserve suteable gratificationes, yeit considering that the staple contract is not fully perfyted and that ther may be ane additionall charge necesarie befor it can be exped, they were generally of opinion to delay that matter to the nixt generall conventione, at which time they will have all under thair view; and wee doubt not but they will treat yow discreitly and suteably to the merits of the cause, nor can it be any lose to your intrest that the nixt conventione is to meet at Aberdeen, these being the people who reap the greatest advantage of the staple port of

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1697.

(1.) To the lord conservator.

Campheir and will certainly lay out themselves to see yow get full satisfactione. The affair of your sons commission to be conjunct with your self was lyckwayes discoursed in the convention and they did conclud nothing about it nor give us any particular instructione thairanent but so far as our warrant reaches wee see no reason to except against his admissione, but rather judge it to be the intrest of the royall borrowes, seeing therby the great objectione of not residence at Campheir will be removed, and two persons can certainly manadge what is unpracticable for one. Besides your son is represented to us as a gentleman of good expectatione and of whom wee have confidence that his actions will render him allwayes acceptable, the best wee can wish for him that it may be justly said *patrem sequitur*. Wee know nothing to hinder his takeing the oath *de fidelj* before Mr Pringle or any other persone yow think fitt. As to the point of admitting factors, wee are satisfied that ye can best judge what numbers therof ought not to be exceeded, for though the merchants doe affirm that it is ther intrest how many ther be if honest and sufficient. However, befor your letters came to be considered, ther was one Patrick Gellie, sone to Baillie Gellie in Aberdeen, admittit factor, and found cautione; but wee shall represent to the conventione that non be admitted for the futur untill your opinion be required theranent. Wee know not of any further necesarie to be moved for us at the treatie of peace then what wee have formerly comunicated to yow to which wee remitt you. Wee suppose yow have lately, under Captain Gordons cover, ane coppie of ane address intended by the royall borrowes to his Majestie which was delayed untill the secretaries of state should see the samen. Accordingly, wee have waited on both secretaries and they are satisfied with the draught, only secretary Ogilvy thought that the paragraph of it mentionning the delay of perfyting the staple till repairatione were given by Campheir for invadeing the Scots jurisdictione might be noticed by the King as too peremptor, but wee told ther lordships that wee designed to convoy the address by your hands who would take care not to present it if yow understood anything therin would offend, and therfor wee have thought it expedient to send yow over the address and be sure yow consider it seriously, and if yow can discover any thing thairin that can give the least dissatisfaction to his Majestie, after advyseing it with such as are about the King, then doe not by any

means present it but rather let us have your judgement in what other termes ane new address may be made and it shall be done accordingly. Ther is ane petition referred to us by the convention, given in to them by the representatives of the deceast James Stewart, merchant in Dundie, which wee doe heirwith transmitt to yow and desirs yow may give the petitioners all the justice and despatch in your power, which will be verie obleidgeing to the conventione, the defunct being sometyme a member himself and his memory verie fragrant among us, he being a kynd and discreit persone. Wee have seen your last lettres direct to the lord provost of Edinburgh to which wee suppose what is said may be ane return, only as to that ratificatione, wherof ye show the difficulty, it is not in our power as a comity to dispence with it, being as yow will see limited. However, if all other things be adjusted to satisfactione wee shall use our endeavours to get ane convention called *pro re nata* that they may consider upon it, and wee are hopefull that if the magistrates of Campheir shall satisfie in all other matters, and particularly in Mr Gordons affair, it will be a considerable inducement to the conventione to ease them so far as can consist with ther safety and trust, and so much will depend upon themselves in that matter. Yow cannot expect such exact returns from us in thir publict affaires as are agreeable to the observationes yow make upon them yourself, which wee doubt not is effect of more thinking then wee can bestow upon it, only wee send yow ane breiff accompt of what occurs to us at present, and what is wanting now shall be afterwards supplyed as yow give us opportunity. In the mean tyme wee expect that the same principle of fidelity to your trust and zeal to your native countrey which hes heirto acted yow in all your proceedings will still determine your continwance therin; and as yow have just ground to expect ane reciprocall meeting from the royall borrows in generall, soe wee, in particular, shall not be wanting to approve ourselves upon all occationes, my lord, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* JOHN ROBERTSON, *preses.* Ther is ane petition presented to us by Alexander Wyllie, who is now at Campheir, desireing to be master of the conserjorie house and with whom wee are generally satisfied but haue delayed to admitt him till wee understand if ye have any reasonable objection against him.

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1697.

(1.) To the lord conservator.

(2.) To the magistrats of Campheir.

My lords. Your last to the royall borrowes wes read in ther late

EDINBURGH. 22 July 1697.

(2.) To the magistrats of Campheir.

conventione at Perth. The vindicatione therby offered of your procedour in the affair of Mr Gordon was not so satisfieing as to justifie any one circumstance of it as being in everie point redargued by the informatione sent to them, but the generall conventione haveing named us as a comittie to give our sentiments of that affair, wee resolve to eshewn these altercationes and calumnious expressions which your letter provocks from us, either by your questioneing the reality of our signeing or sealing our last letter or anything els, and do desire that all former mistakes may be in oblivion and that as wise men wee may look forward and promove the comon intrest, to which purpose and for removeing of all jealousies and former bad impressions it is our earnest desire that such satisfactione may be given to the lord conservator and to masters Gordon and M'Kenzie as may retreive these unfortunat stepts were made to ther prejudices, and wee are confident that if your honors please to lay out your selves effectwallie this may be obtained from his Majestie, at whois door yow say it now stands, for hade the King been informed that the old staple contract was by mutuall consent still in force until the new was perfyted then his Majestie would have given his royall allowance for the exercise of the Scots jurisdictione by thair conservator court as formerly. However, wee apprehend no difficulty if your honors expres willingnes to have that matter adjusted to satisfactione. Wee have laitly received letters from the lord conservator that yow have come a considerable length in setleing the new contract and have returned him our thoughts theranent. Wee shall wish that all things may proceed with that equality betuixt yow as may leave no umbrage of discontent in tyme comeing, and nothing shall be more acceptable to us than the intertainment of a good correspondance according to the laudable example of our predicessores. And in the meantyme be pleased to know that the comittes power from the late generall conventione is expresly limited so as the staple contract cannot be renewed untill first satisfaction be given and repairatione made of the injuries done to the conservator, masters William Gordon and Mackenzie, of the coast, skaith, and damnadge sustained be them through the toun of Campheirs interfering with the Scottish jurisdictione, as your honors will plainly perceave by the act of the generall conventione which wee have transmitted to the conservator to be comunicat to yow; as also he will impairt to your honours the information which the conventione hade anent

the whole stepts of that affair and that the originall of all that hes happened to Mr Gordon is therby most clearly lodged upon one of your burgemasters; but wee desire to eveit all reflections as is formerly said and shall evidence on all occations how readie wee are to continu, my lords, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* JOHN ROBERTSONE, *preses.* EDINBURGH. 22 July 1697. (2.) To the magistrats of Campheir.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Patrick Haliburtoun, dean of gild, and Alexander Thomson, conveener; Perth, Alexander Robertsone; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, Mr John Johnstoune; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, Mr Thomas Nairne; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, Robert Mure; Hadingtoune, Alexander Smith; Kirkcaldie, Henrie Oswald; Montrose, James Miln; Dumfreis, John Reid; Bruntjsland, Alexander Gedd; Kinghorn, John Bruce; Brechine, Alexander Young; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Pittenweem, George Smith; Selkirk, Robert Scot; Dumbrittane, Mr James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Patrick Houstoune; Lanerk, Archibald Sympsone; Aberbrothock, Patrick Stevine; Elgine, William King; Peebles, Archibald Sheills; Craill, William Craufurd; Forfar, Alexander Jaffrey; Rutherglen, George Spence; Lauder, John Edingtoune; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Kintoir, Mr Robert Forbes; Innerurie, Mr James Ferguson; Inverbervie, Alexander Arbuthnet. (Thirty burghs *absent.*) EDINBURGH. 11 November 1697. Sederunt.

11 November 1697.

1. Sir Archibald Mure of Thorntoune, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Mure, preises.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.
3. Approved of the commissions. Commissions approved.
4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed. Allegiance and assurance.
5. Appointed a general committee "to consider the missive and all other things that shall happen to come in befor the conventione and to prepare the samen to ther consideratione." Generall comitty.

12 November 1697.

6. The conventione takeing to ther consideratione that it is his Majesties desire that in the staple contract to be perfyted betuixt them As to ratification of staple contract.

EDINBURGH. 12 November 1697.

As to ratification of staple contract.

and the toune of Campheir that particle of the thretie eight article of the contract obleidgeing the magistrates of Campheir to procure the ratificatione of the states generall of the United Provinces of the staple contract should be dispensed with and past from by the royall borrowes, therfor the conventione, in recognizance of ther deuty to and in complyance with his Majesties royall pleasour, they doe pas from that pairt of the forsaid article, and in leiw therof they doe accept of ane ratificatione from the states of Zealand, which the towne of Campheir are to be obleised to doe by the contract, in respect they have offered the samen to the conservator in name of the royall borrowes, as is signified to them by the conservator in his letter of the dait the fyfth and fyfteen day of October last by past.

15 November 1697.

Address to the King's Majestie.

7. The draught of ane addres to his Majestie by the present generall conventione, creaveing his royall allowance to send to London ane or mae commissionars to the treatie of comerce to be held ther, being red, wes unanimously approven by the conventione and appointed to be recorded, whereof the tenor follows:—May it please your sacred Majestie. Wee your royall borrows being here convened towards the setleing of the staple contract betuixt the town of Campheir and us, and understanding that it is your Majesties pleasour that wee should dispence with that pairt of the contract whereby the magistrats of Campheir were to procure the ratificatione of the states generall of the United Provinces therunto, wee have as ane instance of our dew complyance with and obedience to your royall will and pleasour removed that article, and haveing hade so many signall prooffs of your Majesties royall care of us in all our concerns, wee are therby encouraged to present our addresses upon all occations wherein your Majesties appearance in our behalfs is necessarie. And seeing it hath pleased God, of his infinite mercy and goodnes, to make your Majestie the great and happy instrument of ane honourable peace to these your kingdomes, and being informed that in prosecutione therof ther is ane treaty of comerce to be held betuixt your subjects of Brittane and these of France, wherein the matter of trade may be adjusted and your subjects of this kingdome restored to ther antient priuieledges, it is humbly represented to your Majestee that your antient kingdome of Scotland is verie

much interessed to have sewerall impediments of ther trade to France removed and taken of, as especiallie ane act dischargeing our importing herring to France which was made since the beginning of the lait warr, as also ane act of fyfty solz per tunn imposed upon shiping, both which have been verie greivous to the subjects of this your ancient kingdome, considering that our fishing is our greatest manufactory and if ther importatione to France shall not be allowed as formerly it will tend highlie to the prejudice of this natione, for preventing wherof, as your Majesties interpositione is humbly intreated, soe that your Majestie will be graciously pleased to authorize our commissionars, ane or mae as your Majestie shall appoint, to meet at the treatie and to represent your royall borrowes upon this most concerneing and important exigencie. May it please your sacred Majestie [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* ARD. MURE. EDINBURGH. 15 November 1697. Address to the King's Majestie.

8. The same day, ther wes red and approven by the conventione the letters directed from them to the lord secretaries, which wes ordained to be recorded, whereof the tenor followes:—My lord. The royall borrowes doe reckon it both ther honour and advantage to be patronized by your lordship in all ther publict concerns, and are most sensible that they owe ane deutiefull aknowledgement upon all occationes. They have in complyance with your lordships opinion, signified by yours to the lord provost of Edinburgh, of the date the twelt of October last, keeped a generall conventione wherein they have dispenced with that article of the staple contract, obleidgeing the magistrates of Campheir to procure the ratificatione of the states generall of the united provinces, soe that nothing does now stop the perfyting of that contract. The conventione haue lyckwayes taken under ther consideratione that it does verie much import to the trade and comerce of this kingdome that the royall borrowes should be represented in the treaty of comerce which is to be held at London betuixt Ingland and France, but befor they should proceed to nominat commissionars for that end they did judge it ther deuty to address his Majesty for allowance to send up ther commissionars, of quhich address the just coppie is heirwith transmitted. It is humbly desired by the royall borrowes that your lordship will be pleased to concurr with this addres and interpose with the king for his gracious answer thereto, which when obtained ane new generall conventione will be called for giveing such instructiones as shall be necessary for carieing on ther designe. I Letter to the secretaries.

EDINBURGH. 15 November 1697.

Letter to the secretaries.

am allowed by the conventione to returne your lordship ther humble and most hearty thanks for bygone favours and to give assurrance that the royall borrowes will haue inteir dependance therupon for the tyme to come and will own any success they may haue in this wndertakeing to your lordships good conduct and assistance. This in ther name is signed by, my lord, [etc.]

Cromarty.

9. Authorised the agent to pay to James Row of Chasters £12, 10s. sterling "in full of the fyve moneths supply dew be the burgh of Cromarty at the term of Lammas 1691," and for which sum Row held a precept.

17 November 1697.

Roup of the customs.

10. The conventione of the royall borrowes considering that ther is ane roup to be made of the customes and forraigne excyse upon the nynthteen instant, and in respect that the royall borrowes are the subject and fond out off which the saides deuties aryse to his Majestie, they judge it both the intrest of the natione in generall towards the encourageing of trade and ther intrest in particular to have the saides customes lodged in ther hands, therfor they enact and ordain such commissionars as shall be nominat by them to appear befor the lords of the theasaury and exchequer the day of the roup, and ther to offer and bide for the said tack of the customes and forraigne excyse in name and for the behooff of the haill royall borrowes, and in caice the said tack shall fall to them the conventione bindes and obleidges them and ther successores to releive and disburden ther saides commissionars of the tack deuty to be undertaken, for the space and upon the conditiones as the saides commissionares shall take the samen, which tack sua taken shall be equally devydit amongst the haill royall borrowes conform to ther proportion of the taxt roll, and they shall bear ther proportione of aither loss or gain conform therto.

18 November 1697.

Act in favours of Mr John Buchan, releif of cess and missive dues, unfree traders and trading.

11. [The convention taking to their consideration the act and contract entered into with John Buchan, mentioned in the 24th act of the convention at Dundee on 13th July 1692], which act and contract was also ratified and approven by the act of parliament j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie thrie, for

EDINBURGH. 18 November 1697.

Act in favours of Mr John Buchan, relcif of cess and missive dues, unfree traders and trading.

the comunicatione of trade in maner therein exprest, lyckeas by the said act of parliament it is farder statut and ordained that ther shall be a comunicatione of trade to the saides burghs of regalities, barronies, and others upon ther payeing and releiveing the royall borrowes of a just proportione of the hundred pounds of the taxt roll imposed upon them by act of parliament, as the said act more fully beares. In prosecutione of the which acts and contract the said Mr John, notwithstanding of the outmost dilligence that could be used, did meet with great and unsuperable difficulties, whereby he was necesitat to lay out and engadge for considerable sowmes for payment of his undertakeing, which at length obleidged him to apply to the lords of privie councill, to the effect ther lordships, in regaird of the free offers he did make to the respective shyres of the kingdome of the moderat proportions that he demanded of each of them for the whole unfree traders and unfree tradeing within ther respective bounds, the commissioners of the said shyres might be conveened to consider his said offers, conforme to ane taxt roll that he hade at that tyme exhibited to the councill, and to subdevide and proportione the same upon the forsaid unfree traders for the benefit of the above mentioned comunicatione as they should find reasonable, which supplicatione the lords of his Majesties privie councill did grant and ordored a proclamatione to be thereon emitted, as the same of the date the eighteen day of Februarie last by past at more length proports; lyckeas the said Mr John haveing intented action befor the lords of sessione against unfree traders within certain burghs of regalities and others, such as Dalgkeith, Musleburgh, &c., the lords by their decreit fond that not only the unfree traders themselves but also all retaillers, tradesmen, and other burgesses and inhabitants within the saides burghs were lyable to bear ther proportione of the forsaid taxt roll exhibited by Mr John Buchane to the lords of privie councill in maner abovementioned, and farder by ane other decreit the saides lords did also find that the unfree traders within the forsaid burghs whom the said Mr John hade conveened on that accompt, and where the forsaid proportione was not aggreed to and undertaken by the burgh where they traded, were lyable to the escheat of ther whole moveables conform to the acts of parliament; lyckeas, after the expyreing of the forsaid first contract betuixt the conventione of borrowes and the said Mr John, the conventione mett at Perth the twelth day of Jully last

EDINBURGH. 18 November 1697.

Act in favours of Mr John Buchan, releif of cess and missive dues, unfree traders and trading.

bypast did renew the same for other thrie yeares and tuo years in maner therin mentioned. . . . . And farder the foresaid conventione at Perth did lyckwayes allow of the thrie pound ten shilling that by the taxt roll exhibited by the said Mr John to the privie councill in maner forsaid was added to the forsaid ten pounds, and the convention being verie sensible of Mr Johns care and dilligence in all this matter, and also of the difficulties that he hath mett with and the burden that still lyes upon him, and with all considering how much it is ther own intrest to have the forsaid bargains made effectuall for releiff of the royall borrowes, and that Mr John for advanceing of the said intrest doeth freely give over in favours of the said royall borrowes the forsaid thrie pounds ten shillinges that was added to the said ten pounds in recompense of his pains and expenssis, have therefore ordained and doe heirby with consent of the said Mr John Buchan ordain and enact that the said Mr John Buchan shall grant subtacks or assignments to the burghs particularly after specifiet, viz., ... * and that for payment of ther respective proportiones mentioned in the taxt roll imposed upon the burghs of barronies, regalities, and other unfree traders within the saides shires and haill bounds thereof, with full power to the saides burghs to uplift and levie the forsaid quota and proportion from the persones therin lyable and to use all execution competent to the said Mr John for that effect, which subtacks and assignments they doe farder ordain the forsaides burghs to accept of and that they pay for the same for makeing up of bygones preceeding Lambas last, each of them quarterly, beginning the first quarters payment at the said term of Lambas last and so furth to continow ay and whill the said Mr John be completely payed of the haill soumes particularly wnderwryttin, viz.,† . . . . And farder that for the term of Lambas last and in tyme comeing they pay each of them for themselves and ther successores in office to the said Mr John and his forsaides dureing the space of the tack sett to him at Perth the proportions of the forsaid cess and misive dewes effeiring and corresponding to the respective quotas sett down in the followeing taxt roll, viz.,‡ . . . and that at the termes that are and shall be therto appointed by acts of parliament, acts of conventiones of estaites and borrowes, respective, the saids burghs allwayes haveing retentione of alsmuch as corresponds to the respective

* See subjoined table. † See columns Nos. 1 and 2 in the subjoined table.
‡ See column No. 3 in the subjoined table.

proportiones of the three pound ten shillinges conforme to the list also after mentioned.*

EDINBURGH. 18 November 16 1697.

Act in favours of Mr John Buchan, releif of cess and missive dues, unfree traders and trading.

[The particulars contained in the foregoing act are embodied in the following Table :]—

Burghs appointed to receive tacks.	For shire of	1. Quarterly payments.	2. Total. Scots money.	3. Proportions of £13, 10s.	4. Proportions of £3, 10s.
Edinburgh .	Edinburgh	216 0 0	5203 7 0	0 18 0	0 18 0
Haddingtoun	Haddingtoun	216 0 0	5203 7 0	0 18 0	0 2 0
Lauder . .	Berwick	144 0 0	3468 18 0	0 12 0	0 2 0
Jedburgh .	Roxburgh	252 0 0	6070 11 6	1 1 0	0 9 0
Lithgow . .	Lithgow	264 0 0	6359 13 0	1 2 0	0 4 0
Perth . . .	Perth	168 0 0	4047 1 0	0 14 0	0 2 0
Inverbervie .	Kincairdine	48 0 0	1156 6 0	0 4 0	0 0 6
Aberdeen .	Aberdeen	228 0 0	5492 8 6	0 19 0	0 2 0
Invernes . .	Invernes	32 0 0	770 17 4	0 2 8	0 0 4
Tayne . .	Ross	16 0 0	385 8 8	0 1 4	0 0 4
Fortrose . .	Cromartie	10 0 0	240 17 0	0 0 10	0 0 6
Innerara . .	Argyle	78 0 0	1878 18 9	0 6 6	0 0 0
Craill . . .	Fyfe and Kinross . .	228 0 0	5492 8 6	0 19 0	0 3 0
Dundie . .	Forfar	48 0 0	1156 6 0	0 4 0	0 1 6
Bamff . . .	Bamff	48 0 0	1156 1 0	0 4 0	0 2 0
Selkirk . .	Selkirk	12 0 0	289 1 6	0 1 0	0 0 0
Peebles . .	Peebles	8 0 0	172 14 4	0 0 8	0 0 8
Glasgow . .	Lanerk	132 0 0	3179 16 6	0 11 0	0 1 0
Dumfreise .	Dumfreise	78 0 0	1878 19 0	0 6 6	0 1 6
Wigtown .	Wigtown	20 0 0	481 15 10	0 1 8	0 1 0
Kirkcudbright	Kirkcudbright stewartry	16 0 0	385 8 8	0 1 4	0 0 8
Air . . .	Kyle and Craick . . .	260 0 0	6263 5 10	1 1 8	0 2 0
Irvine . .	Cuninghame bailiary .				0 5 0
Dumbartoun	Dumbartoun	54 0 0	1300 0 0	0 4 6	0 3 6
Rothsay . .	Bute	4 0 0	96 7 6	0 0 4	0 0 4
Rhenfrew .	Rhenfrew	240 0 0	5781 10 0	1 0 0	0 2 0
Stirling . .	Stirling and Clackmannan	132 0 0	3179 16 6	0 11 0	0 1 0
Dornoch . .	Sutherland	10 0 0	240 0 0	0 0 10	0 0 0
Week . . .	Caithness	36 0 0	867 4 6	0 3 0	0 0 0
Elgin . . .	Elgin or Moray . . .	72 0 0	1734 9 0	0 6 0	0 1 6
Kirkwall .	Orkney and Zetland .	84 0 0	2023 10 6	0 7 0	0 3 0
Stirling . .	Clackmannan	84 0 0	2023 10 6	0 7 0	0 0 0
Nairn . . .	Nairn	6 0 0	144 10 9	0 0 6	0 0 2

And lyckwayes excepting from these payments the burghs of Edinburgh, Peebles and Rothesay, which thrie have the cess and missive dewes to be collected by them from the respective shires to belong and appertain to

* See column No. 4 in the subjoined table.

EDINBURGH. 18 November 1697.

them respective dureing the currancie of the said tack at Perth. Provideing allwayes, lyckeas it is heirby provyded that the burghs above mentioned lyable for the forsaid soumes for bygons preceeding Lambas last shall have allowance in the first end therof of whatever recepts they shall produce under the hand of the said Mr John or his factor or others haveing power from him in discount of the forsaid sowmes respective proceeding the dait of thir presents, lyckewayes it is heirby provyded that the respective borrowes to whom the forsaid ease off thrie pownd ten shilling is communicated shall be obleidged to pay to the said Mr John for the present currant tack such a gratificatione as the royall borrowes shall think fitt to determine out of the forsaid fond for what pains and trouble the said Mr John shall be at in assisting of them against the saides unfree traders and others.

Act in favours of Mr John Buchan, relief of cess and missive dues, unfree traders and trading.

Customs and excise.

12. Referring to their 10th act, the convention authorised the lord provost of Edinburgh and John Anderson of Dowhill to offer for a tack of the customs and excise which are to be rouped on 19th instant.

General convention, treatie of comerce.

13. The conventione considereing that they have ordered ane addres to be presented to his Majestie for ane allowance to name ane or mae commissioners to represent them in the treatie of comerce to be held at London, therfor they grant warrant to the lord provost of Edinburgh to call a new generall conventione if he shall sie cause whenever he shall receave his Majesties gracious ansuer to the forsaid addres.

Lithgow, Borrowstness.

14. The conventione haveing considered the memoriall given in by the commissioner for the burgh of Lithgow, representing that the tradsmen of Borrowstnes did hinder the tradsmen of the said burgh from selling the subject of ther trade in the said towne of Borrowstnes as formerly they were in use to doe, they doe therfor recomend to the lord provost, with such of the commissionars of the royall borrowes as his lordship shall think fitt, to attend her Grace the Dutches of Hamiltoun and use his endeavour to get the greivances represented in the said memoriall redressed.

19 November 1697.

Loan by Sir John Shaw to John Buchan.

15. Sir John Shaw of Greenock, knight and baronet, having lent 10,000 merks to John Buchan for the purpose mentioned in the 21st act dated 12 July last, the convention bound themselves as cautioners for repayment of the money.

16. Appointed a committee to consider and determine upon any question that may arise anent the taking of the customs and foreign excise and managing of the same. EDINBURGH. 19 November 1697. Customes and forraigne excise.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Sir Archibald Mure, lord provost, and Patrick Haliburtoun; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, Robert Mure; Dumfreise, John Reid; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cunninghame; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Patrick Houstoune; Craill, William Craufurd. EDINBURGH. 17 December 197. Sederunt.

17 December 1697.

1. Sir Archibald Mure of Thorntoune, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The comitie, conform to the power granted to them by the 16 act of the last generall conventione holden at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the nynteenth day of November last by past, haveing mett in ordor to the manadgement of the tack of the customes and forraigne excyse which was taken by the borrows, they in the first place did put it to the vote,—proceed or delay as to the choiseing of fitt persons who shall manage the said tack,—and it caried proceid; and in the nixt place did put it to the vote how many persones should be choisen and appointed manadgers, which unanimously caried that seaven persons should be nominat and appoynted for manadgeing therof, and therafter proceeded to the nomination of the saids seaven persones, whom they heirby nominat and appoint, and be thir presents nominats and appoints Sir Archibald Mure of Thorntoun, lord provost of Edinburgh, John Anderson of Dowhill, commissioner for Glasgow, Patrick Haliburtoun, dean of gild of Edinburgh, William Menzies, one of the present baillies of the said burgh, Mr James Smolet of Bonhill, commissioner for Dumbartoun, Patrick Houstoun, commissioner for Rhenfrew, and Mr William Johnstoun, commissioner for Annan, to be manadgers of the said tack of the customes and forraigne excyse and to officiat in that trust and doe everie thing requisit theranent dureing the haill space therof conform to the said 16 act of the said last generall conventione in all points, whereof the major pairt of the saids manadgers are heirby declaired to be a quorum. Manadgers of the customs appointed.

EDINBURGH. 17 December 1697.

Sub-committee to draw instructions.

3. Appointed a sub-committee to frame instructions for the managers of the tack of customs and to prepare the draft of a letter to be sent to each of the royal burghs.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 20 December 1697.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Sir Archibald Mure, lord provost, Patrick Haliburtoun D. G.; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, Robert Mure; Dumfreise, John Reid; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Patrick Houstone; Craill, William Craufurd.

20 December 1697.

Preses.

1. Sir Archibald Mure, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Letter to burghs and formula for relieving of those bound in tack.

2. The comitie haveing heard the draught of ane letter offered by the sub-comity to be sent to each royall burgh alloweing them ane dew tyme to report ther answer to the comity appointed by the 16 act of the last generall conventione, together with the draught of ane formula offered by the said sub-comitie for releiveing all those that are bound in the tack of the customs and forraigne excyse, to be sent with the said letter to each burgh, which being publictly read and considered by the comity they approve of both the said letter and formula and ordained the samen to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes:—

(1) Letter.

Right honourable. Wee doubt not but by this tyme ye know that the tack of the customes is fallen in the hands of the royall borrows, only because of some impediments that happened the tack was not subscryved till yesternight, and notwithstanding of the various reports raised to our prejudices wee are still firmly resolved according to the act of the conventione that the tack shall be comunicat to the royall borrows who will accept thereof, according to ther sewerall proportions of the taxt roll; and to the effect that all persones concerned may have dew and tymous advertisement wee have condescended upon the first day of Februarie nixt to come as the dyet betuixt and which the royall borrows may present ther security to the manadgers heir for releiff of those persons who have bound themselves to the publict for the tack dutie. The security thought upon from each towne is according to the formula heirwith sent yow, and therfor wee earnestly desire and expect

that ye will be pleased to transmitt your security against the dyet prefixt, and you may be assured that all endeavours shall be used to make this undertakeing conduce to your burghs advantage; and wee have sent ane inclosed extract of the act of the late generall conventione relative to the tack of the customes which ye may cause record in your councill bookes as ane security to yow and your successores in office, both for your releiff of the tack deuty and for secureing yow of your proportione of any profeit that may arise by vertew of the said tack, which is signified to yow by, signed, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur*: ARD. MURE. EDINBURGH. 20 December 1697. Letter to burghs and formula for relieving those bound intack. (1) Letter.

Follows the formula: At . . . the . . . day of . . . The whilk day, conveened within the counsell house of . . . (then to insert the names of the magistrats and councill conveened, and therafter to say) takeing to ther consideratione ane misive directed to them from the comity of the royall borrows appointed by the last generall conventione, which misive is daited the twentie day of December last by past, and makes mention that the tack of his Majesties customs and forraigne excyse being now fallen in the hands of the royall borrows, and that the samen tack is signed and subscryvit by the lords commissionars of his Majesties theasaurie and exchequer, and therfor desireing ther said burgh to accept of ther proportionall pairt of the said tack according to ther share of the taxt roll, and to transmitt to the manadgers at Edinburgh named by the said comitie ane securitie from ther burgh for releiff of the persons, principalls and cautionars, who stand bound to the lords of theasaurie for payment of the tack deutie, extending to thretie three thousand and thrie hundreth pounds yeirly; and the saids magistrats and town councill, for themselves and in name and behalf of the comunity of the said burgh, being fully convinced and satisfied that it may conduce to the benefeit and advantage of the royall borrowes that the said tack is now lodged in ther hands, and that the lait generall conventione keeped at Edinburgh upon the nynteen day of November last by past did upon good grounds and after mature deliberatione enact and ordain the said tack to be taken for the behooff of the royall borrowes, and are satisfied with the dilligence of the comity appointed for that effect and of the commissionars who were appointed by them to offer at the roup of the customes, therfor the saides magistrates and councill, for themselves and in name and behalf forsaid, doe not only ratifie and approve the proceedings of the said generall conventione, and (2) Formula.

EDINBURGH. 20 December 1697.

of the comitie appoynted by them to sitt after dissolutione thereof in ordor to the setleing thereof in all points, and doe heirby accept the share and proportione of the said tack effeirand to ther share of the taxt roll, but also finding it just and reasonable that the persons obligants in the said tack be releived of ther obleisments and engadgements thairin, therfor they bind and obleidge them and ther successores in office to warrand, free, releive, harmless and skaithless keep the saids haill persons, both principalls and cautionars particularly designed in the forsaid tack, of and from all payment of the tack deuty mentioned therin, and of the penalties obleidged therfore, and of all coast, skaith, damnadge, intrest, and expences which the saides obligants and ther aires and representatives may happen to sustain or incurr through ther engadgement in the said tack in any sort, but prejudice allwayes to the saids magistrats and toun councill and ther successores for themselves and in name and behalf forsaid of their releiff from the remanent royall borrowes, undertakers in the said tack, in maner and conform to the act of the said lait generall convention, obleidgeing the royall borrowes to bear equall burden with others therein effeiring and corresponding to ther sewerall proportiones in the taxt roll, and that the saides magistrates and councill shall have ther just and equall share and proportione of the profeit and benefeit that shall happen to aryse by vertew of the said tack dureing the haill space thereof after the tack duty is payed and deductione made of the necessarie expences of the manadgement, in maner and expresly conform as it is sett doun in the act of the generall conventione relaiting thereto; and the saides magistrats and toun councill doe desire the said comity and manadgers to record ther said acceptance in ther bookes. In testimonie whereof the said magistrats and toun councill have subscryved thir presents, day, place, moneth and year forsaid.

Letter to burghs and formula for relieving those bound intack.

(2) Formula.

Committee for managing tack of customs to meet yearly.

3. The comity considering that it will be necesar for the manadgement of the tack of the customes and forraigne excyse that ther be ane anwall meeting of this present comity dureing the existence of the forsaid tack, doe therfor appoint the second Tuesday of February j^{m} vj^{c} nynty nyne yeares, and therafter yearly, to be the dyet of ther meeting, or sooner if need bees, and als oft as the manadgers shall think fitt to acquaint them to meett.

Instructions to managers approven.

4. The comitie haveing read and considered the whole instructiones

given by them to the manadgers, together with the list of eases concerted by them upon the duty of goodes, doe therfor approve thereof and appoints the samen to be recorded in ther sederunt bookes. EDINBURGH. 20 December 1697.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Patrick Haliburtoun, dean of gild, Alexander Thomson, conveener; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Dundy, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirling, Harie Christione; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, John Mure; Hadingtoun, Alexander Smith; Kirkcaldie, James Millar; Montrose, James Milln; Coupar, David Malcom; Anstruther Easter, Sir Robert Enster; Dumfreise, John Irvine; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoune, Mr James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Patrick Houstoune; Dumbar, Robert Faa; Lanerk, Archibald Simpsone; Peebles, Archibald Sheill; Craill, William Craufurd; Bamff, Alexander Lesly; Lauder, John Edingtoun; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Queensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; (thirty-nine burghs *absent*). EDINBURGH. 1 March 1698. Sederunt.

1 March 1698.

1. Sir Archibald Mure of Thorntoun, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Mure, preses.

2. Revised and approved of the commissions. Commissions approven.

3. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed. Alleadgiance and assurance.

4. Appointed a committee "to prepare a representatione to be given in to the lords of his Majestie his most honourable privie councill." Comity appointed.

5. The convention considering the draught of ane representatione presented by them to the comity to be given in to the lords of his Majesties privie councill in name of the royall borrowes, which being publictly read in presence of the conventione and approven they ordain the samen to be recorded, wherof the tenor followes:—To the right honorable my lord high chancellour and the lords of his majesties privie councill, the representation of the convention of borrowes, humbly sheweth.—That where they being certainly informed that ther are ane treatie of comerce to be held at London for adjusting matters of trade betuixt the Inglish and French nationes who are to have ther sewerall representatives at the forsaid treaty, and considering the great concern this kingdome may Representation to privie councill approven.

EDINBURGH, 1 March 1698.

Representation to privie councill approven.

have in that treaty, and that no commissionars are as yeit nominat for them, they judged it ther humble deuty, als weell as ane nationall intrest, to represent to your lordship what discouradgements the trade and comerce of this kingdome is under through the heavie impositiones and burdens that are upon the goodes they import to France, as particularly all ther Scots woollens, butter, linnen cloath, coalls, and all other goods imported to France, wherof the duty is soe great that it is equall to ane prohibitione. As also the fishing of this natione, which is undenyably the farr greatest manufactorie thereof, cannot be vended in France, being wnder ane absolut prohibitione, only since the beginning of the lait warr, whereby most considerable quantities of herring which wes sent thither this last and present season were stopt from sale and the owners obleidged to dispose them otherwayes, to ther great loss and disadvantage, and some who could make no use therof in forraigne marcats are obleidged to bring them back. And in lyckmaner ther is ane imposition of fyfty solz per tunn exacted from Scots ships and veshells tradeing to France, besides manie other inconveniences the traders of this kingdome are exposed unto, by all which the trade of this nation will be brought to ane very low conditione if remeid be not provided. And therfor the convention humbly propose to your lordship that yow will be pleased to address his Majestie upon this exigence that such from this kingdome as his Majestie shall be pleased to nominat may be admitted as members of the forsaid treatie of comerce, to represent this nation in these most weighty and important concernes therof, and your lordship will direct the royall borrowes to doe what may be proper for them upon this emergent, wherewith they will deutyfullie comply, especially considering that this kingdome hes many repeited immunities from the French granted to them, which they are hopefull may deserve consideratione in the treaty of comerce if allowance be given to represent them therein.

Complaint of Robert Rennald, lait provost of Montrose.

6. Anent the petition given in to the convention by Robert Rennald, lait provost of Montross, mentioneing that where by the [28th] act of the generall convention in Jully last ther was a comittie appoyntit to visit the caice and conditione of the burgh of Aberbrothock and the decay of their peer and harbour, whereof the petitioner was one, in obedience whereunto the said comitie did appoint a day for visiteing of the said burgh, and accordingly the petitioner, conform to the constant custome of his prede-

EDINBURGH. 1 March 1698.

Complaint of Robert Reunald, lait provost of Montrose.

cessores, after receaveing two misives from the said burgh intreating the petitioner to attend the said day, and being acquainted by the provest of Dundie who wes conveener of the said comity of the day prefixt, did (as in dutie bound) punctwallie attend the same with the remanent members of the said comity conform to the forsaid act, and accordingly visited the caice and condition of the said burgh and took inspection of ther peer and harbour, as the report alreadie extended and signed, ready to be given in to the nixt generall conventione, does testifie; notwithstanding whereof some of the present magistrats of the said burgh of Montross, thinkeing that the petitioner did not pay them the dew regaird he should by aquainting them of the appoyntment of the said comitie, did, contrair to the constant practise and constitutione of the said burgh, meet in ane taverne and granted commissione to Baillie Ogilvie, one of there present baillies, to repair to the said burgh of Aberbrothock, and ther mett with the remanent members of the comity and visit the said burgh conform to the above act of borrowes, who, after his arriveall ther, signified to the comity that he was sent according to the above mentioned appoyntment to represent the said burgh of Montrose as one of ther number at the visitatione of the said burgh, and protested in the hands of George Brookie, nottar publict, that be virtew of his said commissione he was willing to goe along with the comity in visiting the said burgh; whereunto it was ansuered be the comity that they are willinge to accept of the said Bailly Ogilvie joyntly with the petitioner, and not otherwayes, and that they and the petitioner hade already obeyed the comand of the said act off borrowes, and according thereto hade visited the said burgh and ther peer and harbour and that the petitioner and they did nothing but what hes been and still is the constant custome (upon such occationes) not only of the toune of Montross in particular but lyckwayes of the haill royall borrowes, and that they acted nothing but what they shall be ansuerable for to the nixt generall conventione. Whereupon, after the said Bailie Ogilvie returned home again, the saides magistrats of Montross did, contrair to the laws and constitutions of the royall borrowes and constant custome of the said burgh, send one of ther number to Edinburgh to consult the whole matter with lawers who (upon misinformatione) advysed them not only to fyne and imprisone the petitioner but lyckwayes declair him uncapable to represent the said burgh in any publict capacity in all tyme comeing. The peti-

EDINBURGH. 1 March 1698.

Complaint of Robert Rennald, lait provost of Montrose.

tioner haveing receaved information of the saides magistrats designed procedour against him for his giveing obedience to the act of borrowes, the petitioner repairs to Edinburgh (being informed of this present meeting) to represent the wholl matter of fact to the conventione as the only judges competent for redressing the injurie and affront designed the petitioner for attending his duty conform to the said act of borrows; creaveand therfor that the conventione would be pleased to take the wholl matter as above represented to ther serious consideratione and after examineing the samen to approve of what the petitioner did in obedience of the said act of borrowes, or otherwayes remitt the petitioners singular caice to the nixt generall conventione to be determined by them, and in the meantyme to dischairge the saids magistrats from insisting any further against the petitioner ay and whill the finall determination of the cause, as the said petition bears. Which petition being heard, read, and considered by the conventione, together with the comities report thereof, they appoynt the magistrats of Montross to forbear any farder procedour against the petitioner untill the nixt generall conventione, and that the commissioner for the said burgh intimat the same to the saids magistrats, and in the mean tyme recomends to both pairties to aggree and adjust the difference betuixt and that tyme. Whereupon the commissioner of Montross protested against the said act in regaird that this convention is only called for determineing a particular caice mentioned in the misive direct by the provost of Edinburgh to the borrowes and lyckwayes seeing the magistrats of Montross are not ceited or appointed to see and ansuer the said petition given in by Provost Rennald against them and theirupon took instruments.

Memoriall as to Scots privieledges in France.

7. The lord provost of Edinburgh reported that the lords of his Majesties privie councill hade, by ther act of the dait the third day of March instant, appointed a comity of ther own number for draweing and formeing ane memoriall to be presented to his Majestie anent the privieledges of the Scots natione in France, and which act the conventione appoints ther clerk to record the samen after subscryveing of the book.

Buchan sent to London.

8. The conventione nominats and appoynts Mr John Buchan, ther agent, to repair to London to wait on the commissioners to be named by his Majestie for the kingdome of Scotland in the treatie of comerce betuixt the subjects of the king of Great Brittaine and the French king,

and ther attend as ther agent for negotiating ther affaires at the said treatie; and allowes to him the sowme of twenty pownd sterling for the expences of his up goeing and down comeing, as also the sowme of twenty pownd sterling monethly from the day he goes of from this place to his return home again, and that by the direction of the comity that are to sitt after disolveing of this conventione. EDINBURGH. 1 March 1698. Buchan sent to London.

9. Appointed a committee to attend to the memorial to be presented by the privy council to his Majesty anent the privileges of the Scots nation in France, and to give instructions to the agent from time to time. Comity appointed.

10. Gave certain allowances to the servants and others. Servants.

General Convention, *held at* Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN. 5 July 1698.

Edinburgh, Patrick Haliburtoun, dean of gild, Alexander Thomson, conveener; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, James Fletcher; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirling, Henry Chrystisone; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, Mr Thomas Nairne; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, John Mure; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dysart, Alexander Swintoune; Kirkcaldie, Henrie Oswald; Montrose, Charles Ogilvie; Coupar, David Malcom; Enster Eister, Captain Philp Enster; Dumfreise, John Reid; Invernese, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, John Seatone; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechen, Alexander Young; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, John Chalmers; Enster Wester, Sir Robert Enster; Selkirk, Robert Scot; Dumbartoun, Mr James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Patrick Houstoune; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Archibald Simpsone; Aberbrothock, William Autherlonie; Elgine, James Stewart; Peebles, Archibald Sheill; Craill, William Craufurd; Tayne, William Ross; Bamff, Alexander Leslie; Nairne, Hugh Rose; Forras, John Brodie; Northberwick, James Millar; Cullen, John Ogilvie; Lauder, John Edingtoune; Kilrennie, Thomas Beathone; Annan, Mr William Johnstoune; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Sanquhar, John Irvine; Dingwall, John Tuach; Fortrose, Thomas Forbes; Kintoir, Mr Robert Patersone; Innerurie, John Fergusone; Inverbervie, Andrew Beatie; Stanraer, Thomas Macjarrow; (fourteen burghs *absent*). Sederunt.

5 July 1698.

1. Alexander Walker, provost of Aberdeen, elected preses. Preses.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.

EDINBURGH. 1 March 1698.

Complaint of Robert Rennald, lait provost of Montrose.

tioner haveing receaved information of the saides magistrats designed procedour against him for his giveing obedience to the act of borrowes, the petitioner repairs to Edinburgh (being informed of this present meeting) to represent the wholl matter of fact to the conventione as the only judges competent for redressing the injurie and affront designed the petitioner for attending his duty conform to the said act of borrows; creaveand therfor that the conventione would be pleased to take the wholl matter as above represented to ther serious consideratione and after examineing the samen to approve of what the petitioner did in obedience of the said act of borrowes, or otherwayes remitt the petitioners singular caice to the nixt generall conventione to be determined by them, and in the meantyme to dischairge the saids magistrats from insisting any further against the petitioner ay and whill the finall determination of the cause, as the said petition bears. Which petition being heard, read, and considered by the conventione, together with the comities report thereof, they appoynt the magistrats of Montross to forbear any farder procedour against the petitioner untill the nixt generall conventione, and that the commissioner for the said burgh intimat the same to the saids magistrats, and in the mean tyme recomends to both pairties to aggree and adjust the difference betuixt and that tyme. Whereupon the commissioner of Montross protested against the said act in regaird that this convention is only called for determineing a particular caice mentioned in the misive direct by the provost of Edinburgh to the borrowes and lyckwayes seeing the magistrats of Montross are not ceited or appointed to see and ansuer the said petition given in by Provost Rennald against them and theirupon took instruments.

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10. Gave certain allowances to the servants and others. Servants.

General Convention, *held at* Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN. 5 July 1698.

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5 July 1698.

1. Alexander Walker, provost of Aberdeen, elected preses. Preses.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.

ABERDEEN. 5 July 1698.

3. Approved of the commissions.

4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

Commissions approved. Alleadgiance and assurance.

6 July 1698.

Generall comity.

5. Appointed a general committee "to take wnder consideratione the heads of the missive, and the particular reports anent the visitatione of the burghs referred to them, with such other bills and overturs as shall from time to time be remitted to them."

Buchan, discharges for his tack duty.

6. Appointed John Buchan to produce to a committee, between this and the first Tuesday of August, discharges by the general receivers for his tack duty.

Reports by the visitors in July 1692.

7. The conventione haveing considered the seaventh article of the misive whether or not it be the intrest of the royall borrowes that a trew stated accompt of ther wholl comon good be recorded in the borrow register by ther clerk, to the end that no dilapidationes may be made of any pairt therof in prejudice of the borrowes, doe therfor in place thereof appoynt ther clerks to record the wholl reports of the particular burghs of the kingdome made by the visitors appointed for that effect in Jully j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty tuo yeares; and which reports being by the generall conventione holden at Dundie appoynted to be sealled up for the use of the borrowes they appoynt the comity that are to sitt at Edinburgh in tyme of parliament to call for the saides reports and therafter delyver the samen to the clerk that they may be recorded in a particular register for that effect.*

Heads of missive continued.

8. Continued, and appointed to be heads of next general missive, articles as to qualifications of commissioners, stopping gifts or monopolies, difference between Peebles and the Earl of Traquair, old broad cards, and easing certain burghs in the tax roll.

Dumfreise.

9. Appointed a committee to meet and "use ther outmost endeavour to adjust the difference betuixt the towne of Dumfreise and Marthias Partes, and to report ther dilligence to the nixt generall conventione."

8 July 1698.

Act in favours of Bruntisland.

10. Having heard the report of those who visited Bruntisland, the convention appointed that burgh "to make up and repair ther sewerall peirs and har-

* The reports will be found in the Appendix.

bours in sufficient work betuixt the dait heirof and the first day of Jully j^m^ vij^c^ yeares, as also to repair ther tolbooth or prison house betuixt and the first day of Jully j^m^ vij^c^ and two yeares," and upon this work being performed at the sight of certain burghs, the agent was ordained to discharge Bruntisland of their whole missive dues preceding July 1698, extending to £1160 Scots. ABERDEEN. 6 July 1698. Act in favours of Bruntisland

11-15. The convention having heard the reports of those appointed to visit the burghs aftermentioned, ordained the agent to make payment (11) to the burgh of Kinghorn of 400 marks "to be imployed by them for the building of ther new peir and repairing of the way leading up the Pettiecurr;" (12) to the burgh of Enster Easter of 500 merks "for the present repairatione of ther peir, town house, shambles and harbour;" (13) to the burgh of Bamff of 500 marks "towards the building of ane new pier at the towne of Down which they are to purchass and that whenever the fundatione of the said peir is laid;" (14) to the burgh of St Andrews 400 marks "for the present repairation of ther peir and harbour;" and (15) to the burgh of Aberbrothock of 300 marks "towards the present repairation of ther peir and harbour." Allowances to Kinghorn, Enster Eastor, Bamff, St Andrews and Aberbrothock.

16. On petition of the burgh of Brechin, the convention appointed a committee "to attend the Earle of Panmure for adjusting the differences betuixt his lordship and the said burgh." They also allowed the burgh 300 marks for completing their tolbooth and schoolhouse. Brechin.

17-21. The convention having heard the reports of those appointed to visit the burghs aftermentioned, ordained the agent to make payment (17) to the burgh of Peebles of 400 marks "towards the repairatione of ther bridges, tolbooth and schoolhouse;" (18) to the burgh of Nairne of 400 marks "towards the repairatione of ther tolbooth and bridge;" (19) to the burgh of Fortrose of 200 marks "for the present repairatione of ther tolbooth and schoolhouse;" (20) to the burgh of Forras of 250 marks "for the present repairatione of ther tolbooth;" and (21) to the burgh of Innerurie of 200 marks for the building of a bulwark "for defending ther church and churchyeard from the river of Don." Allowances to Peebles, Nairne, Fortrose, Forras and Innerurie.

22. The convention, in terms of an article in the missive, appointed the agent to pay to the burgh of Lanark 500 marks "towards the building of ther bridge." Lanark, 500 marks.

23. Appointed a committee to visit and report on the condition of the burgh of Jedburgh. Jedburgh.

24. The convention haveing heard the petition given be the good towne of Edinburgh, representing that the present conditione of the said burgh is such as without the convention shall be pleased to take them under consideratione and provide some meanes for ther subsistance they will be in danger of utter ruine, and being the metropolitan of the nation, Condition of Edinburgh.

ABERDEEN. 6 July 1698.

Condition of Edinburgh.

who haue allwayes been readie and still resolved to support ther neighboureing borrowes, it is therfor humbly expected from the justice and favour of this convention that they would fall vpon such methods as may tend to ther preservatione, praying therfor that the convention would take the premissis to ther serious consideration and doe therin as they should think just, as the petition bears; which being considered by the convention they appoynt the samen to be a head of the nixt generall misive.

Committees to visit certain burghs.

25-34. Having considered petitions from the burghs aftermentioned, the convention appointed committees to visit and report the condition of (25) the burgh of North Berwick "and what length the repairatione of ther peir is come to;" (26) the burgh of Kirkcaldie and of their peir, harbour and tolbooth; (27) the burgh of Elgine, "and of the place latly purchased by them for building of ane peir and harbour at the mouth of the water of Lossie, and what expences is fitt to be bestowed for so necessarie a work; and grants warrand to them to dispose of ther grase lands of Mosstows and Cattills either in few or long tacks," to be presented to the convention for ratification; (28) the burgh of Tayne and "ther kirk, stiple and tolbooth," and the agent to assist the burgh in the process pursued by the Viscount of Tarbat against them; (29) the burgh of Cullen, and of their peir, harbour, tolbooth, schoolhouse and want of a bridge; (30) the burgh of Selkirk, "and of ther tolbooth and the place where the water runes by the said towne that damnifies ther comon mills;" (31) the burghe of Dingwall, "and what comon good they have and of the ruinous conditione of ther tolbooth and school;" (32) the burgh of Kintoir; (33) the burgh of Inverbervie and their tolbooth; and (34) the burgh of Lithgow and of their common good and trade.

Greivances.

34*a*. The conventione haveing considered the sewerall greivances given to them by some of ther members in relation to trade both at home and abroad, they remitt the consideratione thereof to the conventione that is to sitt at Edinburgh in tyme of parliament, and recomends to them to use ther outmost endeavour to get the saides greivances redressed in the enshewing session of parliament; as also remitts to the said conventione the breaches that are made by the magistrates of Campheir of the staple contract, with Mr Gordons letter anent the saides magistrates ther carriadge towards the staple factors and other persones of the Scots natione haveing dependance on the said staple at Campheir.

Commissioners representing burghs in visitations.

35. The conventione, for explaineing of ther acts wherein the parti-

cular burghs are appointed to make visitationes or reports to the nixt generall conventione, doe heirby declair that the particular burghs so named is and shall be heirafter wnderstood to be the commissioner representing and who hes subscrivit the book till the nixt generall conventione, declaireing heirby that the said commissioner upon any emergencie that may fall out soe that he can not attend to make visitationes or reports, then and in that caice the burgh whom he represents may appoint and choise any other person of ther councill whom thny shall think fitt to supply his place.

ABERDEEN. 6 July 1698.

Commissioners representing burghs in visitations.

9 July 1698.

36. Ratified and confirmed, in favor of James Mores, a charter granted by the town council of Dundee of a portion of the barony of Hiltowne of Dundee and also parts of the lands of Clepantowne within the same barony, with a croft and ten acres of land called Craufurds land.

Ratification of charter by Dundy.

36*a*. Anent the petition given in be the principall and masters of the Marishal Colledge, mentioneing that where the toune and countrey are happy in enjoying the presence of soe many wise and eminent persones, pitched upon for ther merit to setle the best measoures for advanceing the honour and intrest of the royall borrowes of this kingdome, to whose conduct and activity the flourishing of this natione, the advancement of arts and sciences, and the threiveing of scholls and colledges is, next to God and ther great king, chiefly to be ascribed, wee take the confidence humbly to represent that the edifice of ther colledge haveing from its first founding after the reformatione continowed mean and innapplacable to lodge ther students or allow conveniencie for ther publict commencements, the petitioners, pressed with the dayly disadvantages of so small a building, were forced to sett about ane addition which, by the favour of heaven and charitable contributione of pious persones, without any other stock, the petitioners have considerably advanced, but ther fonds being now neir exhausted they humbly intreat that the honourabill conventione, in whois hands the manadgement of the great stock of the nation is lodged, would be pleased to commiserat the state of ther fabrick, which for want of monie is lyck to be ruined befor it can be perfected, and to appoynt some seasonable and charitable supply for compleiting so necesar and usefull a

Act in favours of the Marishalls Colledge.

ABERDEEN. 9 July 1698.

Act in favours of the Marishalls Colledge.

work, that as the greatest and best designs of the nation receave lyfe and encouragement from the royall borrowes soe the towne and colledge may owe the perfecting and finishing the work to their charity; and as the bounty of the royall borrowes shall be most thankfully receaved and honestly imployed and the memorie of it made as lasting as the society upon which it is preferred, soe the petitioners shall insert the names of everie individuall commissioner in ther publict registers among the benefactors and erect a monument of ther gratitude by which they may testifie to posterity how much they stand indebted to the charity of the royall borrowes, and the continwance of peace, the flourishing of trade, the prosperity of the royall borrowes shall be the petitioners continowed prayer; as the petition beares. Which petition being read, heard, and considered by the conventione, they, for encouradgement of soe usefull and necessarie a work, appoints the agent to pay to the principall and masters of the said college the sowme of aue hundreth pounds sterling to be applyed in the termes of the petitione and upon performance of the conditions thereof, wheranent thir presents with ther recept upon the back thereof, shall be a warrand for alloweing the said sowme in the agents accompt.

Ratifying proceedings as to tack of customs.

37. The convention ratified, approved, and confirmed all the acts made by the convention in November last in relation to the tack of the foreign customs and excise and of the whole proceedings of the committee in relation thereto. Several burghs having not as yet accepted their proportions of the tack, the convention declared "that the proportiones of the recusant burghs is fallen and accresed to the borrows acceptand."

Agents accompts.

38. Approved of the agents accounts of disbursements from July 1697 to July 1698 extending to £9,910, 14s. 6d. Scots and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions. The account contains the following items:—

	£	s.	d.
Item, to Comisar Smolet for his extraordinary pains at the convention in November and at many other occasiones in drawing of letteres to the King, secretaries and conservator .	400	0	0
Item, to the compter, for his expenses at London . .	240	0	0
Item, for two moneths from the tyme he went of for London .	480	0	0
Item, spent in the affair befor the privie counsell at severall meetings and dinners for many dayes, to the clerks of counsell and ther servants, coach hyre, chancellar, secretaries and other noblemen their servants, for printing of papers and consulting of lawiers	480	0	0

ABERDEEN. 9 July 1698.

Agents accompts.

Item, spent with Secretarie Ogilvie, in the Ship taverne, anent the comerce with France	17	0	0
Item, to David Callander for the articles of the roup of the customs	3	14	0
Item, for a dinner, at signing the book in November	89	6	0
Item, for wrytting ane addres to the King	11	12	0
Item, spent with the comity anent the post office	8	4	0
Item, to the postmasters man by order of the comity	3	0	0
Item, spent severall tymes at Mitchells and at subscryveing the book in March last	30	0	0
Item, to Andrew Ross for doubles of the haill acts of borrow for two years by past to be sent to the conservator	28	0	0
Item, spent with the comity anent the treaty of comerce	48	0	0
Item, spent with some of the lords of session anent the decreit against Paisly and Newark and process anent Authtermuchtie	15	0	0
Item, for wryting representations to the privie councill anent the treaty of comerce	2	8	0
Item, spent with Sir Thomas Moncreiff anent the brandie	3	10	0
Item, conform to particular accompt since my going to London	62	10	0

The commissioner for Glasgow "protested against the allowing of sexty pound sterling for Mr John Buchan's expenses who was commissionat to goe to London to assist at the treatie of comerce but was not to goe untill the comitty ordored him, and soe it is he went without ther warrand befor the treaty began and is returned again befor any appearance of a treaty comenceing."

Act in favours of William Gordon, factor at Campheir.

39. Anent the petition given in to the convention by William Gordon, factor in Campheir, mentioneing that in the petition presented to the convention at Perth, praying consideratione might be hade, previous to the setlement of the staple, of the petitioners great chairges he hade been put to in defending himself against the towne of Campheirs breach of contract and violating the nations jurisdiction, the convention then were pleased to appoint and ordain reparation to be made him conform to the contents of the said petition and signatour theron in the clerks hands which is creaved may be again called for and considered; lyckeas upon ane other petition presented to the conventione mett at Edinburgh in November last, much the same with that above mentioned, the petitionar obtained the favour of a letter from the convention to the magistrats of Campheir requireing them to consider and repay his great expences and damnadges occasioned by thair meanes, quherunto the said magistrats have hade no

ABERDEEN. 9 July 1698.

Act in favours of Willliam Gordon factor at Campheir.

regaird, neither have refounded one farthing, the petitioner creaved leave to represent that the staple contract is again renewed and yeit no redres made of his great loss and chairges, wherefor is obleidged once more to complain of the severe measour he hath mett with by being exposed to the malice and oppressione of the town of Campheir through the petitioners endeavoureing to vindicat the nations honour, maintain the privieledge and jurisdiction of the royall borrowes and get justice done him in his own particular; as also to represent to the convention that, conform to the constitution of a staple factors admissione, the petitioner (who hade served his countrey in that station these sewerall yeares) did find sufficient caution for makeing good the product and price of all goodes consigned to him tho the buyers should prove insolvent, and that accordingly the petitioner hath *de facto* counted with his imployers for debts which he never receaved, to the value of one thousand pound sterling, as can be made appear by his bookes and other good evidences, and being now obleidged to abandon his imployment as factor after sustaineing soe great losses in the service of his countrey, creaveand thairfor that the conventione would soe far countenance the petitioner as to appoint his reimbursement out of some effectwall fond, seeing in all equity and justice everie societie should protect its members and dependants, and the petitioners expences creaved are plainly bestowed and laid out for behooff of the royall borrowes and maintaineing ther honour and privieledges, and its humbly conceaved that if the petitioner hade been so mean as to neglect his duty and suffer his nation to be affronted and bafled by succumbeing, the convention would have wndertaken the matter and followed it out *prima instantia* upon ther own chairges, and it were verie hard that the petitioners makeing himself the first advancer should sustain and lye under the loss of what he hath soe necessarly laid out, and if ther remain any scruple or difficulty with the conventione its humbly creaved that they would be pleased either to call the petitioner and hear him on the premissis in ther own presence or appoint some of ther number to hear and examine the said matter and either to determine or to report as they shall sie cause, as the petition bears. Which being considered by the conventione they declair that since the lord conservator hath setled the staple port without reparatione of William Gordons damnadges and expences, which by act of borrowes and the sewerall letters wryttin be the

comity to the conservator he wes expresly forbidden to setle the staple at Campheir till repairatione hade been done to the said William Gordon, doe therfor appoynt the conservator to use his outmost endeavours with the towne of Campheir to procure repairatione to the said William Gordon of his damnages and expences, and that betuixt the date heirof and the nixt generall convention in Julfy j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie nyne; and untill repairatione be made to the said William Gordon the conventione are resolved that they will not take wnder ther consideratione the conservators charges or any other demands till the nixt generall conventione.

ABERDEEN. 9 July 1698. Act in favours of William Gordon factor at Campheir.

40. Appointed the agent to pay to Madam Kennedie, relict of the lait conservator, £60 Scots; to Andrew Moncur, ten rex dollars; and to Elspeth Millar ten rex dollars. Allowances.

41. The convention having considered a petition by the inhabitants of the burgh of barony of Stonhyve, "creaving ther assistance towards the repairatione of ther bulwark, being soe necessarie and usefull a work for the trade of this kingdome," appointed a committee to visit the burgh and report to the convention who are to sit the time of the parliament, with power to pay to the burgh any sum not exceeding 300 marks. Burgh of barony of Stonehyve.

42. The convention appointed the clerk to record in their books a contract between the town of Forras and the Shereff of Murray with their ratification thereof. Contract betwixt Forras and the shereff of Murray.

43. Anent the petition gevin in by the provost, baillies, and councill of the burgh of Aberdeen, mentioneing that where by the northest stormes from the sea beating in the harbour of the said burgh and by the water of Dee, its frequent diverteing of its course, ther are such banks of sands cast up in the mouth and entrie of the said harbour that no ships of any ordinar burden are able to goe out or come in therat, and stranger ships comeing to the said harbour are oft in hazard of being lost therby, so that the petitioners are obleidged to take down ther peir and carie out and rebuild the same in a straight lyne towards the east a great way farder then it presently stands, which will be a work of great trouble and expences and cannot be perfected wnder twentie thousand pound, and it being weell knowen that by reason of the great debt the said burgh lyes under and many losses they have formerly and of lait sustained they are not able to accomplish the same without supply and help from others, creaveand therfor that the convention would be pleased to grant some suitable supply for carieing on the forsaid necessar and usefull work, as Aberdeen 2,000 lib. for reparation of their peir.

ABERDEEN. 9 July 1698.

Aberdeen 2,000 lib. for reparation of their peir.

the petitioners have been formerly verie ready on such occasiones to assist ther neighbours, albeit the said burgh have not heirtofor receaved any assistance from others for helping to carie on ther publict works; as the said petitione bears. Which petitione being considered be the convention they appoint the agent to pay to the said burgh of Aberdeen the sowme of two thousand pounds Scots monie to be imployed by them towards the building of their peir, and that how soon the foundatione therof shall be ledd, and that at the sight and be the advyce of the burghs of Montrose, Bamff, Kintoir, and Bervie, or any two of them, and they to report to the nixt generall conventione.

Severall memorialls remitted to next convention.

43*a*. The conventione, considering that ther tyme will not allow them to take under ther consideratione the sewerall memorialls that are necesar for the good of the royall borrows to be presented in parliament, doe therfor recomend and remitt to the conventione that are to sitt in tyme of parliament to take under serious consideratione and use ther outmost endeavours for dischargeing the exporting of woul out of this kingdome, John Adair and Mr Fletchers dewes upon ships, the imposition upon linning cloath, and that the act of borrowes anent the lights of May be taken under consideratione, and inquir how the tacksmen exact more from shipes then conform to that act, as also the affaires of the burghs of barronies and regalities, their effectwall payeing of thair proportion of the taxt roll, as also the act of his Majesties privie councill anent correctione houses, that the burghs may be freed therof, and of the certificatione therin contained, and sicklyck that the excyse be ledd on the malt and not on the aile, and that the weight of Orknay butter be according to the former weight; and whatever els the royall borrowes shall think fitt and convenient for the encouragement of trade and comon intrest of the borrowes is heirby remitted to that conventione.

Enster Wester.

44. Appointed a committee to meet with the commissioners of supply of the shire of Fyfe as to the difference between them and the burgh of Enster Wester anent the militia, and to visit their pier and public works and report to next general convention.

Publict servants of Aberdeen.

45. Allowed £20 sterling to be divided amongst the public servants of Dundee in consideration of their "kynd and readie service."

Meetings of convention.

46. The conventione appoints to be a head of the misive whether or not it be the intrest of the royall borrowes that ane act be made whereby

the conventione shall only stay two or thrie yeares in one place or that it shall be continowed as it allwayes hes been done formerly to vote the samen yeirly. ABERDEEN. 9 July 1698.

47. The convention haveing considered the 22 article of the misive anent ther clerks compendizeing the acts of the generall or particular conventions to Jully j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty eight, and how far he hes made ane abbreviat of the said compend, did in presence of the convention produce the compend fully extended to November nynty seaven and ane abreviat of the said compend, not fully ended; which being considered be the conventione they appoint the agent to pay ther clerk the sowme of ane thousand marks Scots for his services and appoints him to finish the said compend till Jully nynty nyne that all persones that desires ane coppie therof may be served, and appoynts twenty dollors to be payed for writeing the compend and abbreviat. Compend of acts.

48. Allowed fees and gratuities to the agent, officers and others. Fees and gratuities.

49. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next generall convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1699. Convention dissolved.

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH. 7 February 1699.

Edinburgh, Patrick Haliburtoun, dean of gild, and Alexander Thomson, conveener; Perth, Patrick Dauidsone; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, Alexander Orem; Stirling, John Stevinsone; Lithgow, Adam Bucknay; St Andrews, John Mores; Glasgow, John Anderson; Aire, John Mure; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, Alexander Swintoun; Kirkcaldie, Henry Millar; Montrose, James Milne; Coupar, Thomas Bethoun; Enster Easter, Philip Enster; Dumfreise, John Reid; Invernese, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, Alexander Gedd; Inverkeithing, Robert Baird; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Alexander Young; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Kirkcudbright, James Gordon; Wigetoune, Simon Gulline; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, Sir Patrick Murray; Enster Wester, Sir Robert Enster; Selkirk, Mr John Murray; Dumbartoune, Mr James Smolet; Dumbar, Robert Faa; Lanerk, Archibald Simpsone; Aberbrothock, Patrick Steivine; Elgine, Robert Innes; Peebles, John Tweedie; Craill, William Craufurd; Bamff, Patrick Ogilvie; Whythorn, David Stewart; Forfar, Charles Dicksone; Rothesay, Dugall Stewart; Nairn, John Rose; Forras, John Dumbar; Northberwick, Sir Robert Stewart; Cullen, Sir John Hamiltoun; Lauder, John Edingtoune; Kilrennie, John Bethune; Annan, Mr William Johnstoune; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 7 February 1699.

Sanquhair, Robert Huntar; Galloway, Robert Davidsone; Dingwall, John Bayne; Queensferrie, Sir Willam Hamiltoun; Fortrose, Daniel Simpsone; Inverara, Hugh Broune; Week, James Sinclair; Inverbervie, James Byres. (Nine burghs *absent.*)

7 February 1699.

Preses. Revising commissions. Commissions. Alleadgiance and assurance.

1. George Home of Kello, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.
2. Committee appointed to revise the commissions.
3. Approved of the commissions.
4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

8 February 1699.

Generall comity appoynted.

4*a*. Appointed a committee to "take under ther consideration the ratificatione and approbatione of the staple contract conform to his Majesties letter, with power to them to call for the lord conservator and William Gordon and hear them fully, and to call for the acts of borrows and instructions relaiteing to the setleing of the staple port, as also to take under ther consideratione the heads of the last missive, with power to them to subcomitt and to receave what informatione any of the commissionars can give anent the tradeing burghs of barronies and regalities in ther bounds or districk."

His Majesties letter to the royall borrows.

5. The same day, his Majesties royall letter being presented to the convention by the lord provost of Edinburgh, ther preses, the same wes publictly redd and ordained to be recorded, whereof the tenor followes:—To our right trusty and well beloved the commissionars of our royall burrows of our antient kingdome of Scotland. *Sic superscribitur:* WILLIAM R. Right trusty and weelbeloved, we greet yow well. Wee were well satisfied with your letter to us of the 15th October 1696, whereby yow signifie your resolution to renew the staple contract with the town of Campheir, and for this end yow hade granted a commission to Sir Andrew Kennedie, our resident in the Netherlands, since which tyme wee understand that in prosecution of this commission the forsaid contract is ended and the staple court established in the forsaid toun, and that thereby there are very advantagious privieledges granted for the trade and comerce of that our antient kingdome of Scotland which wee will be carefull to have punctwally observed and will lyckwise take care to remove whateuer may occatione any misunderstanding betweeen the royall borrows and the said town of Campheir; and by this

contract it being aggreed that the same shall be ratified both by the states of Zealand and by a convention of our royall borrows, and which being allreadie done by the saids states wee haue therfor appointed your meeting at this tyme that yow may also ratify the same, and that therafter wee may interpose our authority and give our ratification thereof. Wee have frequent accounts of your loyalty and fidelity to us on all occations, and therfor wee give yow full assurrance of our royall protectione in all your concernes; and soe wee bide yow heartily farewell. Given at our court at Kensingtowne, the 31st day of January 169⅘, and of our reigne the 10th year. By his Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* SEAFEILD.

EDINBURGH. 8 February 1699.

His Majesties letter to the royall borrows.

10 February 1699.

6. The conventioue haveing, in obedience to his Majesties letter, mett to take under ther consideratione the commission granted be the comity appoynted for setleing the staple port, by the generall convention holden at Edinburgh in Jully j^m^ vj^c^ nynty sex, to Sir Andrew Kennedy of Clowburne, lord conservator, with the articles of aggreement extended by way of contract past betuixt the royall borrowes and the magistrats of Campheir, consisting of threty nyne articles, signed by Sir Archibald Mure of Thorntoune, then lord provost of Edinburgh; which being fully considered by the conventione, together with the principall Dutch contract signed by the lord conservator in name and behalf of the royall borrowes and by William van Nassau Lord Odyk, his Majesties commissioner, and be the commissioners of the toune of Campheir, together with the states of Zealand ther ratificatione and approbatione of the samen, the conventione accepts thereof as satisfactorie, and have ratified, approved, and confirmed, and be thir presents ratifies, approves, and confirmes the forsaid contract with the seaven separat articles thereto annexed and signed as aforsaid, in the haill heads, articles, clauses, and conditiones therin contained, and declaires the said staple port to be fullie setled at the said toun of Campheir for the space off twenty one years comenceing from the dait of the said contract, being the twenty fyfth day day of December j^m^ vj^c^ and nynty seaven years, S. N.; dischargeing and heirby discharges all ships and other veshells whatsomever passing from this kingdome with staple comodities to goe to any port within the seaven United Provinces but to the said towne of Campheir, under such

Act ratifying the staple contract

EDINBURGH. 10 February 1699.

paines and penalties as are contained in the acts of parliament and borrowes, which the convention be thir presents renews and revives all and quhatsomever [acts] and statuts made by any former conventiones in favours of the staple, and that against the breakers and contraveeners of the same, declaireing the generallity heirof to be als sufficient as if every particular act, statut, penalty and certification were specially heirin exprest, quheranent this present convention dispences forever.

Act ratifying the staple contract.

The borrows answer to his Majesties letter.

7. Ther wes redd and approven by the convention the letter direct from them in answer to his sacred Majesties royall letter to them, which they ordained to be recorded and signed by ther preses, whereof the tenor follows :—May it pleas your Majesty. Wee your royall borrowes, being heir conveened by your Majesties comand for ratifieing of the staple contract past betuixt us and the magistrats of Campheir, haue, in obedience to your royall will and pleasour, ratified and confirmed the said contract in all the heads and articles thereof, and seeing your Majestie hes been graciously pleased to assure us of your royall care to remove all occationes of differrence betuixt them and us, whereupon wee doe rely and depend, wee are therby encouradged to transmitt ane accompt of the indignities and injuries comitted be them upon the conservator and our factors and dependants befor and since the renewing of the staple contract, and have recomended the samen to be laid befor your Majesty by your secretary of state, and are verie confident from many experiences given us of your royall protectione that in this exigent, wherein your state of borrowes are soe deeply concerned, your Majestie will be pleased both to appoint reparatione of our damnadges alreadie sustained and interpose your royall comands that ther may be a dew observance of the contract in tyme comeing. Wee doe lyckwayes humbly offer to your Majesties consideratione the great disadvantages this your antient kingdome in generall, and wee your royall borrowes in particular, doe ly under by the prohibitione of the importing our herring and other fishes to France, for therby is occationed ane extraordinary decay of trade and comerce, it being beyond question that our fishing is the farr greatest manufactorie wee can pretend unto ; as also ther is ane impositione of 50 solz per tunn upon all Scots ships and veshells that goe to France which is ane heavie burden, besides great impositiones upon all our manufactories ; and seeing wee are informed the commissionars for the treaty of

comerce are conveened at London towards setleing of such matters as relait to trade, wee doe humbly intreat your Majestie will be graciously pleased to appoynt the trade of this natione to be specially regairdit in that treaty by such persons as your Majestie in your royall wisedome shall think fitt to nominat for that effect. Wee return your Majesty our most humble and hearty thanks for your gracious letter upon this occation, with full assurrance of our unalterable resolutiones to serve your Majestie with our lyves and fortuns as being, may it pleas your Majestie [etc.] (Signed) G. HOME. EDINBURGH. 10 February 1699. The borrows answer to his Majesties letter.

8. Ther was redd and approven by the conventione the draught of ane letter direct from them to the secretary of state, which they ordained to be recorded and signed by ther preses, whereof the tenor followes :—May it pleas your lordship. Yours of the 30th January to the lord provost of Edinburgh wes by him comunicat to us at this convention, and in obedience to his Majesties commands and your lordships intimation thereof wee have been very frequent in our meetting, and after consideratione of the staple contract have ratified the samen, which is heirwith transmitted to your lordship to be approven by his Majestie, albeit nothing less then our duty to the King would have obleidged us to ane complyance, considering the many abuses comitted be these magistrats of Campheir without any shadow of justice or reasone, as your lordship will perceave by the memoriall heirwith sent yow, which wee doe most earnestly recomend to your lordships care, both for presenting the same to his Majestie and interposeing with him for ane redress; and, particularly, wee humbly think that, by your influence, reparatione may be hade from Campheir, both of the indignities done the conservator and the wast chairges that William Gordon wes necesitat to expend through ther incroachments. This opportunity seemes verie seasonable because wee have good ground to expect it from his Majesties gracious letter to that purpose, and wee judge ourselves both upon honour and intrest concerned that it be effectwally done. Wee have lyckwayes taken wnder our consideratione the discouradgements which our trade lyes wnder by the prohibition of our herring and other fishes to France and the heavie impositiones and burdens that are upon all the goodes wee import there, as also the 50 solz per tunn upon all our veshells that goe to France, and that it does verie much import to the trade and comerce of this kingdome that speciall regaird be hade thereto Letter to secretary of stat.

EDINBURGH. 10 February 1699.

Letter to secretary of stat.

in the treaty of comerce betuixt Ingland and France which is presently sitting at London as is informed, but befor wee could proceed therin wee did judge it our duty to address his Majesty on this occatione. It is therfor humbly intreated by the royall borrowes that your lordship would be pleased to concurr with and assist us by interposeing with his Majestie for his gracious answer, especially considering that this kingdome and the trade therof hade many immunities from the French granted to them, which wee are hopefull may deserve consideratione in the treaty of comerce if the samen be represented; as also that your lordship would be pleased to take notice of the heavy imposition ledd on our linnen cloath by the Inglish, which is almost equall to ane prohibitione and will intirely ruine that trade if speedie remead be not provided. Wee could never believe the royall borrowes better stated then since your accessione to the present character, of whose manifold favours wee have receaved sufficient prooffs, and wee most still depend upon your lordship to patronize us in this and all our just concerns, which wee have the more confidence to expect seeing as we have allwayes hitherto found ourselves and the intrest of the state of borrowes safely lodged in your hands, soe wee cannot be more sensible of anything then that wee are upon all occationes bound to appear, may it pleas your lordship, [etc.].

Conservator and William Gordons memoriall.

10. Having considered a memorial given in by the lord conservator and William Gordon, the convention appointed it to be inserted in the burgh register and an extract to be sent to the secretary of state "that his lordship may represent the same to his Majestie."

Comity appointed to consider severall affairs.

11. Appointed a committee to meet after the dissolving of this convention, and remitted to them (1) report of a committee as to the proposal of Mr John Buchan "anent a fond of credit" and to prepare and extend the proposal in ample form and to address the government theranent and concert measures with them soe as it may take effect; (2) the petition anent the wool, with power to instruct the agent if they see cause to make representations to the privy council or treasury for stopping the exportation of wool out of the kingdom; (3) what may concern the poor's money of the staple port, and providing a minister thereto, and to appoint a master of the consergerie house, to receive what answer shall come from his Majesty in the case of the conservator and William Gordon, and "in relatione to the treaty of comerce." The convention also authorised the lord provost of Edinburgh to call a particular convention with power to do every thing with regard to the treaty that may concern the interest of the royal burghs.

Petition by Charles Charters.

12. Remitted to the consideration of next general convention the bill given in by Charles Charters, lait bailie of Edinburgh.

13. The conventione remitts to the comity that is to sitt after disolveing of this convention to meet with Andrew Myrtoun anent the quartering after the first of Aprile nixt, and to take such effectwall course thairin as they shall think most convenient for hindering any of the royall borrowes to be troubled by him or quartered upon. As also remitts to the said comity the proposall given in by James Donaldsone anent the publishing of ane Edinburgh Gazet and to give him such encouragement therin as they shall think fitt, they allwayes advanceing no monie but remitts that pairt to the generall convention in Jully. EDINBURGH. 10 February 1699. Quartering. Edinburgh Gazet.

14. Remitted to next general convention "the trouble and pains taken by ther clerk and agent and the other servants." Clerk, agent and servants.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Patrick Haliburtoun and Alexander Thomsone; Perth, Patrick Davidsone; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirling, John Stevinesone; Lithgow, Adam Bucknay; St Andrews, John Mories; Glasgow, William Wardrope; Aire, John Mure; Hadingtoune, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, Alexander Swintoun; Kirkcaldie, Henrie Millar; Montrose, James Milne; Coupar, Thomas Beathon; Enster Easter, Philp Enster; Dumfreise, John Irvine; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Bruntjsland, Alexander Gedd; Innerkeithing, Thomas Baird; Kinghorn, William Smeiton; Breichen, Alexander Young; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Wigetoune, William Coultrane; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, Sir Patrick Murray; Enster Wester, Sir Robert Enster; Selkirk, Mr John Murray; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smalet; Rhenfrew, Robert Pollock; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Archibald Simpsone; Aberbrothock, Patrick Steivine; Elgine, Robert Innes; Peebles, Archibald Sheills; Craill, William Craufurd; Bamff, Robert Sanders; Whythorne, David Stewart; Forfar, Charles Dicksone; Rothesay, Mr Dougall Stewart; Forras, Robert Cuming; North Berwick, John Home; Cullen, My lord Hallcraig; Lawder, John Edingtowne; Kilrennie, Thomas Peacock; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Dingwall, Keneth Bayn; Dornoch, Sir Adam Gordon; Queensferrie, My lord Whytlaw; Fortrose, Daniel Simpson; Kintoir, Mr Robert Forbes; Innerara, Hugh Browne; Innerurie, Mr James Fergusone; Week, James Sinclair; Kirkwall, Sir Alexander Home; Inverbervie, James Byres; Stanraer, William Fullartoun. (Seven burghs *absent*.) EDINBURGH. 4 July 1699. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1699.

4 July 1699.

Home, preses.
1. George Home of Kello, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Revising commissions.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

5 July 1699.

Commissions approved.
3. Approved of the commissions.

Allegiance and assurance.
4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

Generall comity appointed.
5. Appointed a general committee "to take under consideratione the heads of the missive and the particular reports anent the visitationes of the burghs referred to them, with such other bills and overtours as shall from time to time be remitted to them."

6 July 1699.

Aberdeen harbour.
6. The convention having considered a report by the commissioners of Montrose, Bamff and Kintore, "anent the harbour of Aberdeen and founding ther peir, which is in great forwardness and severall materialls ledd for building therof;" appointed the agent to pay the burgh the sum of £2000 Scots allowed by the 43d act of the general convention in July 1698.

Petition to the commission of parliament.
7. The convention appoynts ane petition to be given in to the commission of parliament that they may sitt notwithstanding of ther adjournment and give ther opinion anent the ten pounds Scots for the unfree trade, and to recomend the borrowes to the lords of his Majesties thesaurie for a delay untill the lords of the said commission of parliament proportion the said ten pound upon the unfree trade conform to the act of parliament, off which petition the tenor followes:—Unto the right honourable the lords and others of the commissione for the unfree trade, the supplicatione of the commissioners of the royall borrowes to this present generall conventione, humbly sheweth: That where your petitioners haveing hade ane act of parliament made in ther favours for releiveing them of ten pounds of the taxt roll from the unfree traders within the kingdome for the space of fyve years now bygone, and in the last session of parliament it was recomended to his Majestie to nominat ane commissione for adjusting what proportione the unfrie traders should bear of the taxt roll for tyme comeing, conform whereunto your lordships being nominat for that effect have hade sewerall meetings and given your decreit and sentance as to all bygons proceeding Candlemess last, but for that tyme and heirafter

your lordships have thought fitt by your last sederunt to delay it till August nixt, and seeing the convention of borrowes cannot proceid to determine themselves in the said matter untill first your lordships direct them by your sentence, they doe humbly propose that your lordships would be pleased to recomend your petitioners to the lords of theasaurie that they may discharge all executione by quartering or otherwayes against them untill ther nixt generall convention in Jully nixt, betuixt and which tyme your lordships may fully determine that matter. May it therfore please your lordships to take the premissis to your consideratione and to recomend them as above, and your petitioners shall ever pray. Which being hard and considered by the convention, they approve therof and ordains the samen to be given in, and recomends to my lord provost of Edinburgh, ther preses, Glasgow, Air and Dumbartoune to wait [on] my lord chancellour that he may ordor the calling of the lords and others of the commissione of parliament for that effect.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1699.

Petition to the commission of parliament.

10 July 1699.

8. The convention, for the good and advantage of the state of borrowes, and for the shunning of all debeats anent the qualificationes of such members as shall heirafter be ellected or chosen to represent any of the royall borrowes in ther generall or particular conventiones, doe enact and ordain that the followeing platforme shall be observed by them in all tyme comeing as to the ellection of there members, viz. :—That ilk commissionar to be ellected shall be testified by his constituents to be ane man fearing God, of the trew protestant religion publictly professed and authorised be the lawes of the kingdome, ane merchant traffecquer and residenter within the said burgh, bearing all portable chairges with his neighboures ; and if the person elected commissionar be not ane merchant traffecquer and residenter that he be testified to be ane member representing the said burgh in the current parliament for the tyme, or if he be neither ane merchant trader nor member of parliament that he be testified to be ane person that hath intrest in the said burgh and bears ane pairt of ther publict burdens and can tin and win in all ther affairs, wnder the pain of ane hundreth pounds Scots, and that the haill commissions be according to this present plateform in all tyme comeing which is inviolably

Statute concerning the plateform.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1699.

Statute concerning the plateform.

to be keeped be ilk burgh heirafter wnder the forsaid penaltie, which is by and attour the casting of ther commissions, and the penaltie of one thousand markes to be payed be ilk burgh granting commissions to persons not qualified in maner and conform to the plateform abovewrittin; and this in stead of all former plateformes, which are heirby rescinded in soe far as they are inconsistent with this present act.

Conservator to persew Mr Ryx for poors mony.

9. Having considered a letter from Master Ryx's to the royal burghs "wherby he is content and willing to submit himselff as to the conservators demands anent the poors money to any indifferent person to be judge therein," the convention ordained the conservator to proceed therein by way of submission; and if the submission prove ineffectual that Ryx be pursued before the justices at the Hague for the claim in the first process in 1679 and befor the conservator court for subsequent claims.

Cullen 500 lib.

10. Having considered the report of those appointed to visit Cullen, the convention appointed the agent to pay the burgh £500 Scots to be employed by them for repair of their pier, harbour, and bridge.

11 July 1699.

Augmenting proportions in the tax roll.

11. The convention, considering that the £10 Scots, being the quota for unfree trade, is not yet laid on and proportioned by the commission of parliament appointed for that effect, and that there is resting about fourteen months' cess, "which the commissaries of the armie threatens to quarter for what is dew thereof, and the convention considering what trouble and expenses former quartering for the said ten pounds Scots hes cost seweralls of the royall borrowes, and to the end the samen may be preveened in tyme comeing by laying on a just proportione of the said ten pownds upon these burghs that are able to bear it;" the convention resolved that the £10 Scots should be apportioned for the abovementioned cess upon the following burghs, viz.:—Perth, an addition of £1, 10s. Scots; Dundie, 12s.; Aberdeen, £1, 10s.; Stirling, 12s.; Glasgow, £2; Montrose, £1, 1s. 4d.; Enster Easter, 1s.; Innerness, £1; Pittenweem, 4s.; Dumfermling, 6s.; Rhenfrew, 1s.; Aberbrothock, 3s.; Elgine, 7s.; Nairn, 2s.; Forras, 2s.; Dumfreise, 2s. 8d.; Air, 1s.; St Andrews, 1s; Hadingtowne, 1s.; Irvine, 6d.; Dumbartoun, 6d.; Lanerk, 1s.; Rutherglen, 1s.

Dumfreise, comonties.

12. Anent the petition given in to the convention by the burgh of Dumfreise, mentioneing that ther being two comonities belonging to the said burgh lyeing at ane considerable distance, and which is surrounded with sewerall other herretors lands soe that the same is totally eaten up in winter by the neighbouring herretors bestiall, and in summer tyme

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1699.

when the towns goods goes home at night the same is lyckwayes eaten up, in respect of the forsaid tuo comonities are not inclosed, and the petitioners being desirous for the good of the toune to impark the forsaids two comonities and sett the same to the best availl for the use and behooff of the toune, creavand therfor the convention would be pleased to grant warrant to the said burgh to impark the saids tuo comonities and to sett the same in taik for the space of fyfteen years for the use and behooff of the said burgh, or for such a competent tyme as the convention should think fitt, as the petition bears. Which being heard, read, and considered by the convention, they grant warrand and impowers the saids magistrats of Dumfreise or ther successores to impark the forsaides tuo comonities and to sett the samen to the best advantage in tack for nynteen or twenty one years in ther optione to any person who shall offer therfor.

Dumfreise, comonties.

13. Continued and appointed to be heads of next general missive, articles referring to stopping of gifts and monopolies, difference between the burgh of Peebles and the Earl of Traquair, complaints as to the manufactory of old broad cards, easing certain burghs in the tax roll, and reports of visitations of the burghs of Lithgow, Tayne, and Elgine.

Heads of missive continued.

14. The convention being informed of sewerall complaints against the factors at Campheir in giveing the benefett of the staple port to strangers, doe therfore in all tyme comeing prohibit and dischairge any of the factors at Campheir to colour any staple goodes belonging to strangers as Scotsmen goodes or to give them the benefeit of the staple port, certifieing each factor that does in the contrair that he shall be proceeded against by the convention with all severeity, and recomends to the lord conservator to report yeirly to the convention the contraveeners of this present act; and in respect by sewerall acts of borrowes and the acts of admission of factors they are therby obleidged to renew ther cautionars at any tyme the royall borrowes shall demand the same, doe therfor appoint the haill factors resideing at the staple port of Campheir to renew ther cautioners betuixt the dait heirof and the nixt generall convention, with certification to them if they faillie they shall be proceeded against conform to the saids acts and ther places declaired vaccant.

Factors at Campheir, benefit of staple to strangers.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1699.

12 July 1699.

Enster Easter, North Berwick, Kirkcaldie and Enster Wester.

15-18. Having considered the reports of those appointed to visit the burghs aftermentioned, the convention appointed the agent to pay (15) to the burghs of Enster Easter 200 marks "for compleiting of their peir, harbour, town house and shambles;" (16) to the burgh of North Berwick 300 marks "to be imployed by them for compleiting their said peir and harbour;" (17) to the burgh of Kirkcaldie 200 marks "towards the present repairatione of ther said peir and harbour;" and (18) to the burgh of Enster Wester 200 marks "for the present repairatione of ther peir and harbour."

Act in favours of Jedburgh.

19. The conventione haveing considered ane representatione made be the towne of Jedburgh, mentioneing ther desolat and ruinous conditione, and particularly that ther bridge which is the only mean of there subsistance is now fallen, whereby ther is a stop put to any trafficque they formerly hade, and except the same be repaired they will be forced to renounce ther priviledges of being a burgh royall, and they haveing given in a petition to the lords of privie councill have obtained ane act in ther favoures for ane voluntar contribution, which will be altogether uneffectwall unless the royall borrowes patronize the same, and therfor humbly desired ther concourse and assistance therunto, in complyance wherwith the generall conventione doe unanimously and heartily recomend the petitioners to the sewerall burghs royall that they would interpose there power and influence with ther sewerall burghs for procureing a liberall collection to the said burgh of Jedburgh as being one of there own members and kynd neighbour in all the affairs and concerns of the royall borrowes, and [continues] ther caice a head of the missive.

Committees appointed to visit certain burghs.

20-42. The convention having considered petitions given in by the burghs of (20) Dundie, (21) Montrose, (22) Air, (23) Kilrennie, (24) Stirling, (25) Haddingtowne, (26) Lauder, (27) Irvine, (28) Innerkeithing, (29) Dysart, (30) St Andrews, (31) Inverness, (32) Rothesay, (33) Week, (34) Bruntisland, (35) Rhenfrew, (36) Stranraer, (37) Annan, (38) Coupar, (39) Lochmaben, (40) Wigetoune, (41) Perth and (42) Dumbar, appointed committees to visit these burghs and to report to the convention the condition of their common good, trade, and public works.

Bamff, tack of Salt Loches.

43. Anent the petition given in to the convention by the burgh of Bamff, mentioning that where the petitioners haveing a peice of waist ground called the Salt Lochs, a considerable pairt of ther comon, which

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1699.

Bamff, tack of Salt Loches.

by reason of the naturall barreness and damnadges it receaves from the tydds and speat of Divveran, in soe far that the dycks [by] these tydds and speats are caried away by ther violence, and unless ther be a long leace of the samen sett it neither can be improven nor taken by any, creavand therfor the conventione to grant a warrant to sett a nynteen years tack of the Salt Loches that the samen may be improven to the best availl for the good of the said burgh, which being heard read and considered by the conventione they interpose ther authority and grants warrand to the said burgh to sett a nynteen or twenty one yeares tack of the said Salt Lochs for the good and advantage of the said burgh to any person that shall offer most therfor.

Dundie, tack of Olivers Croft.

44. Anent the petition given in to the conventione by the burgh of Dundie, mentioning that where thair is some lands called Olivers Croft and others inclosers belonging to the said burgh, which the petitioners (after the conventiones permission) are resolved for the further improvement therof and advantage of the said burgh to sett in tack for seaven or nyne years to such persones as shall offer most for the same, creavand therfor the convention to grant warrant to the magistrats of the said burgh for setting the forsaids lands in tack for the space abovewritten, as the petition bears; which being heard, read, and considered by the convention, they interpose ther authority and grants warrant to the present magistrats of Dundie, or ther successores, to sett the forsaids lands in tack for seaven or nyne yeares for the good and advantage of the said burgh to any person that shall offer most for the same.

Quotas for unfree trade.

45. The conventione appoints that the burghs of Edinburgh, Lithgow, and Jedburgh, and such other burghs as by the eleventh act of this present general conventione payes ther proportion of the ten pounds Scots imposed upon them for the unfrie trade, shall have the sole benefeit of what quotas the burghs of barronies and regalities accepts of for the said unfree trade or shall be ledd upon them by the commission of parliament appoyntit for that effect, and that for ther respective releiffs of ther quotas as the samen shall be determined by the nixt generall conventione.

13 July 1699.

Agents accompts approven.

46. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1698 to

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1699.

July 1699, extending to £17,150, 9s. 2d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay proportions. The following items are contained in the accounts :—

Agents accompts approven.

	£.	s.	d.
Item, to the cashier of the African Company as per receipt	4364	7	2
Item, to the Marshall Colledge of Aberdeen as per act and receipt	1200	0	0
Item, to the printers for printing peapers, petitions, ansuers, representations and memorialls since July 1697, being two years	150	0	0
Item, to a serjant and sext shouldiers quartering	66	12	0
Item, to the compter, by and attour the sixty pund starline allowed at Aberdeen, comeing to London the third of Apryll and pairting from it the twenty first day of Junij	180	0	0
Item, spent at many dinners and suppers to sewerall noblemen and barrons at many meetings in tyme of parliament and in the tyme of the generall conventione of borrowes in November, and the tyme of the sitting of the commission of parliament for trade, and anent the affair of Andrew Miretoun, the treatie of comerce and wooll	650	0	0

Case of Edinburgh, etc., continued.

47. The convention containows the 20th article of the misive anent the present condition of the burgh of Edinburgh to be taken under consideration, the same being the metropolitan of the nation who allwayes hath been readie to support ther neighouring borrowes, that therfor necesar it is that some meanes be provyded for ther subsistance to preserve them from utter ruine; as also containows the visitationes made in favours of the burghs of Kintour, Dingwall, Aberbrothock and Inverbervie, that ther caice and conditione be considered the nixt generall conventione; and sicklyck appoints the petition given in by the burgh of Lanerk to be a head of the nixt misive; as also that the burgh of Kirkwall and thair decayed condition and thair heavie proportion of the taxt roll, and the magistratis given in a trew state of the said burgh, &c., upon oath, again Jully nixt, be a head of the nixt misive.

Edinburgh gazeteir.

48. The convention haveing considered the 35 article of the misive anent the proposall given in by Mr Donaldson for publishing of ane Edinburgh Gazet and what encouragement they think fitt to bestow upon him for containowing his newes, doe therfor appoint the agent to pay him the sowme of threty pound sterline for his encouragement to continow in publishing the Edinburgh Gazet to the nixt generall conventione, and recomends to all the royall borrowes as they think fitt to concert and

aggree with the said Mr Donaldson for furnishing any of them the newes and gazets by everie post. EDINBURGH. 13 July 1699.

Conservator and William Gordon 500 lib. sterling.

49. The convention having considered the 31 article of the missive "anent the conservators expenses for setleing the staple port and Mr William Gordons chairges and expences sustained by him by the incroachments made by the magistrats of Camphieir on him," appointed the agent to make payment to them of the sum of £500 sterling in full of their claims "reserving to the royall borrows and the said William Gordon ther just pretences against the magistrates of Campheir as accords of the law."

Comity to common with Earle of Melvill.

50. The convention upon ane representation made by George, earle of Mellvill, president of the privie councill, that the tyme he was sole secretary of state for the kingdome of Scotland he wanted some yeares his ordinary pensione of tuo thousand markes, which being considered by the convention they enact and appoint that his lordships pensione of two thousand marks for the years he was not payed therof should be payed to him, and remitts to the burghs of Edinburgh, Dumbartoun, and Lochmaben, to meet with the Earle off Mellvill and adjust accompts with his lordship off what years he wants dureing his being secretarie of state, and appoints the agent to pay his lordship therof as the samen shall be determined by the report of the said comitie.

Anent setting up and erecting of manufactories.

51. The generall convention considering that it hes pleased the lords of his Majesties privie councill to revive the lawes and acts of parliament made against the exportatione of wooll, to the effect that the manufacture of wooll may be improven to the best advantage, whereby great numbers of poor and idle people may be put to work and soe releive the natione of the burden they have of the saids poor and idle persones, therfor the convention doe by these presents recomend to the haill sewerall borrowes to sett up and erect manufactories of wooll within thair respective bounds, and to give all such encouradgement theranent as may be thought necesar for promoting that good and profeitable designe, and that each burgh royall shall be holden to report ther dilligence in the forsaid matter to the nixt generall conventione.

Alteration of taxt roll.

52. The convention appoints the alteration of the taxt roll to be a head of the nixt misive, to the end that such burghs as are increased in ther trade may be heighted and such burghs as are decayed in thair trade may be eased.

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1699.

Committee for considering sewerall memorialls.

53. Remitted to a committee appointed to meet after this convention (1) memorial by the conservator anent the staple port and staple factors, (2) memorial presented to the convention anent the wool, (3) the proposal given in by bailie Charles Charters "anent the 50 solz per tun," and (4) petition by James Gordon merchant "creaveing to be established machler at the staple port of Campheir."

Andrewe Mertoune of Gogar.

54. Having considered a petition by Andrew Miretoun of Gogar, with act of his Majesty's treasury in his favour, the convention appointed a committee to commune with him, and empowered the committee to pay him what they shall determine.

Annan.

55. The convention, on a petition from the burgh of Annan, authorised the magistrates "to morgage a pairt of ther publict revenewes for some tyme, or to sett tacks therof for nynteen yeares for raiseing mony to build a bridge over the river of Annan."

Dornoch.

56. Appointed a committee to visit and report on the condition of the burgh of Dornoch.

Clerk, agent and others.

57. The convention granted certain allowances to the clerk, agent, servants and others.

Absents unlawed.

58. Unlawed the absent burghs in £100 Scots each.

Convention dissolved.

59. Dissolved the present convention and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1700.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *appointed by the 53d act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

10 August 1699.

EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, lord provost; Dumbarton, Sir James Smallet; Rothesay, Mr Dougall Stuart; Kintore, Mr Robert Forbes; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Dornoch, Sir Adam Gordon; Haddington, Lithgow, Lochmaben, Lauder, Kirkwall and Selkirk, *absent.*

Lord conservators memorial. Staple goods and staple factors.

1. Follows the lord conservators memoriall anent the staple :—

(1) That factors trade not for themselves in any sort of staple goods.

(2) That no man consigne staple goods to any persone but to legally setled staple factors.

Approbation of staple contract.

(3) That the convention may send to the magistrats of Campheir authentick extracts of their and his Majesties ratificatione of the staple

contract according as the toun of Campheir hase sent ane extract of the states of Zealands ratificatione therof. EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699.

(4) That there may be a committee appointed by the convention to concur with the consistory and conservator as to calling a minister to Campheir. Minister.

(5) That the said committie may either give a commissione to one to be master of the conserjory house or allow the conservator so to doe for one for whom he is to be answerable. Master of conserjorie house.

(1, 2) The committie appointed by the 53 act of the last generall conventione to meet after disolveing therof for taking under their consideratione the lord conservators memoriall and all other things relateing to the staple port, having in obedience therto considered the first tuo articles of the said memoriall anent the staple factors buying and selling staple goods to the great hurt and prejudice of the merchants, bringing the saids goods to the staple port at Campheir, and sicklyke anent the merchants arryving thereat not only selling their own goods but lykwayes goods belonging to severall other persons, to the great prejudice of the factors, therfore the said committie ordains the saids factors to desist and cease from all buying and selling of any Scots staple goods to their own behouffe but allennerly to the well and profite of ther merchants to which they are subject to make compt therof, under the pain of tinzell of their said offices; and in lykemaner statutes and ordaines that non of the merchants comeing to the staple port with staple commodities shall presume to sell any staple goods belonging to any other merchants but that the samen shall be consigned to the setled staple factors residing at the staple port, and that they shall not consigne the samen in any tyme comeing but to such under the penalty of one hundreth pounds Scots money to be payed by the contraveeners of this present act *toties quoties*; and the committie by thir presents renews and revives all former acts of borrows made concerning the premisses, and particularly the act daited att Dyssart the fifteenth day of June j^{m} v^{c} and nynty thrie, and recommends to the lord conservator to see the samen putt to due executione and this present act punctwally observed. Deliverance of committee. Staple goods and staple factors.

(3) The committie grants warrant to their clerk to send to the magistrats of Campheir authentick extracts of the royall borrows their ratificatione and approbatione of the staple contract, together with his Majesties Staple contract.

EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699.

ratificatione theirof, and to wryte ane letter to the magistrats of Campheir theranent which is to be sent with the lord conservator.

Staple contract. Minister.

(4) As to the fourth article of the lord conservators memoriall, the committie remitts the samen to the conservator whill he is upon the place, and in caice of difficulty the committie will concurr with him if they be required for that effect.

Master of the conserjorie house.

(5) As to the 5th article of the lord conservators memoriall anent James Leuchers to be master of the conserjorie house and of his ability and qualificatione for dischargeing the said office, the committie doe therfor nominate, appoint, constitute and ordain the said James Leuchers to be master of the conserjorie house, and allowes to him all the freedomes, profits, casualities, and emoluments appertaining and belonging to the said office, or that hase been enjoyed by any of his predecessors, masters of the said conserjory house, he allways obeying the rules and instructions sett doun and appointed by the royall borrows to the keepers of the said conserjory house in July j^{m} vj^{c} and seventein years, and ordains the lord conservator to admitt and receave the said James Leuchers to the said office and administrat the oaths to him, and this his commissione to endur dureing the conventiones pleasure.

James Gordon, machler.

2. Anent the petition of James Gordon, merchant and late factor at Roterdam, the committee "admitt and receave the said James Gordon to be machler at the staple port, and allows to him all the fies, casualities, profits and emoluments in use to be payd to any in that statione or formerly enjoyed by them, and grants him all the liberties and freedoms appertaining and belonging to the forsaid office."

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *appointed by the 54th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

15 August 1699.

EDINBURGH. 15 August 1699. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Home lord provost; Dumbarton, Sir James Smallet; Lauder, John Idington; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Kintore, *absent;* Lochmaben, William Menzies.

Act in favours of Andrew Myretoun of Goggar.

[The committee taking into consideration the 54th act of last general convention and the petition of Andrew Myretoun therein referred to] mentioning that there is justly resting to him the sum of £112, 15s. sterling,

EDINBURGH. 15 August 1699.

Act in favours of Andrew Myretoun of Goggar.

being the bygone annualrents of £1400 sterling due by the royall borrows to him since Lambmas 1697, and that the said Andrew did advance the saids annualrents to save the royall borrows from the danger of furder quartering, seing the committie of the royall borrows for the tyme did undertake to the lord chancellor and other lords of the thesaurie that the annualrent should be as well payd as the principall summ . . . lykeas the lords commissioners of the thesaurie, by ther act of the date the 17th day of February 1699 years, doe appoint Captain Andrew Mertoun to forbear dilligence against the royall borrows untill Aprile next, and that he furthwith remove the parties quartering of the ten pound untill then, and that at that tyme the annualrents be payd with the principall, [the convention ordained the agent to pay £600 Scots in full payment of all annualrents to this date.]

CONTRACT betwixt the MAGISTRATES of FORRAS and the SHERIFF of MORAY, ratefied by the 42d act of the General Convention in July 1698.

At Forras the 20th day of Februarie 1696 yeares, it is appointed, aggreed, and finally endit betuixt the honourable pairties wnderwrittin, they are to say, Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, heritable shirreff of Murray, comonly called the shirreffdome of Elgine and Forres, and als the herretable proprietor of the milnes of Forras, miln lands, multures, sucken, sequells, thirlage and pertinents thereof, on the one pairt, and John Brodie, elder, Thomas Alves, John Brodie, younger, Thomas Forsyth, baillies; John Collie, dean of gild and theasaurer; Patrick Nicolson, Gilbert Smith, George Findlay, William Laird, Archibald Findlay, Alexander Sutter, James Roy, William Barron, persones presentlie upon the councill of the said burgh, for themselves, their own rights and interests, and as takeing the full burden in and upon them for the wholle inhabitants, councill, and community of the said burgh, present and to come, and ther successores in place and office, with unanimous and uniform advyce, consent and assent of all and one another, after mature deliberatione and consideratione hade and taken be them anent the weell, utility, profeit, peace, and advantage of the said burgh, foreseen and at length considered in the comon councill of the said burgh, specially called and conveened to the effect wnderwrittine, one the other pairt, in maner, form, and effect followeing, that is to say :—Forasmeikle as the said Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, his honourable ancestors, shirreffs of Murray, aquired to them ther aires and suc-

EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699.

cessores the heritabill right and possession of the milns of Elgine called the old milns, with the pertinents thereof, lyand within the paroch of Elgine and Shireffdome of Murray called Elgine and Forras, as also of ane coble, half coble, and third pairt coble salmond fishing upon the water of Spey, with the corffhouse and pertinents thereto belonging, lyeing within the parochin of Urquhart and shirefdome forsaid, and sicklyck the herretable and irredeemable right, propertie, and possessione of the milns of Forres, miln landes, multurs, suicken, sequels, thirlage, and pertinents of the samen, lyand within the parochin of Forras and shirrefdome forsaid; all which landes, miln lands, fishing and pertinents thereof, lyand in maner respective above writtin, were of old mortified, given, granted, and disponed be Alexander, King of Scots, to the order of the friers of St Andrews appoynted to serve and worship God in the Valley of Pluscarden, and thairafter confirmed to the forsaid ordor by David, King of Scots, as the charters and rights, made and granted to them therupon of their respective daits, and contents in themselves, here holden as for exprest, *brevitatis causa*, at more length bears; be vertue of the which rights and possessione sua aquired by the saids shireffs of Murray of the saids milns of Forras, milne lands, multurs, sucken, sequels and pertinents therof, lyand in maner forsaid, the saids shireffs of Murray and ther successores from tyme to tyme successive after others have been in the unquestionable, undoubted, and uninterrupted peaceable right and possessione of the saids milns of Forras and pertinents of the same, by all civill, naturall, and legall deeds of right, property, and possessione past all memorie of man; and, but prejudice of the generallytie forsaid, the deceast Alexander Dumbar of Cumnock, shirreff of Murray, [on 6 June 1550 obtained a decreet before the magistrates of Forras ordaining the whole inhabitants to keep punctually the mills possessed by him, "who therupon in his own behalf and the priors of Pluscarden took and required act and instrument."] Lykas the said shireffs of Murray retained the right and possessione of the saids milns of Elgine called the old milns, and of the said coble, half coble, and third pairt coble salmond fishing upon the said water of Inverspey, until the year 1586 that diverse and sundrie debeates and questions arose theranent tuixt Alexander, then commendator of Pluscarden, and James Dumbar of Cumnock, then shirreff of Murray; which controversies, with the actions then persewed and depending *hinc*

inde therupon, wes be both the saids pairties submitted to the finall sentance and decreit arbitrar [of Mr John Lindsay of Memure and Mr John Grahame of Hallyeards, two of the senators of the college of justice, with concurrence of Sir John Maitland of Thirlestane, knight, principal secretary of state for the time. Conform to the "decreit arbitrar," pronounced on 19th January 1586, James Dunbar renounced all right he or his predecessors had to the old mills of Elgin and fishing in the Spey in favor of the commendator or prior of Pluscarden, who on the other part, with consent of his convent, by charter dated 1 March 1586, disponed to the said James Dunbar and his successors the said half coble and third part of a coble and salmon fishing and also the mills of Forras, multures, sucken, sequels and pertinents; all which rights and conveyances of the mills and heritable jurisdiction and office of heritable sheriff of Murray are now established in the person of Alexander Dunbar of Westfield as heir of his father]. Be vertew whereof the said Alexander Dumbar, now of Westfeild, clames right not only to the jurisdictione of shirrefship within the said burgh of Forras, and over the haill inhabitants therof and territories of the samen, and to the profeits, deuties, rights, and services aryseing therby, as a pairt of his herretable office and jurisdictione of shirrefship of Elgine and Forras, but also to ane yearly fair or marcat called Saint Laurens day holden usually within the said burgh upon the tenth day of August yearly, and to the rights, privieledges, liberties, tolls, customes, and casualitie belonging to the said yearly fair and aryseing therby, and in lykmaner to ane yearly deuty formerly in use of payment to his predecessores, shirreffs of Murray, by the inhabitants of the said burgh of Forras called the assyse ale, for which he and his predecessores are lyable in payment of three powndes Scots monie yeirly in exchequer. And on the other pairt, forasmeikle as the saids provost, baillies, councill, and community of the said burgh of Forras and ther predecessores, provosts, councill, and comunity of the same, hade given granted and disponed to them and their predecessores, provost, baillies, councill and community of the samen, and there successores in place and office, by the kings and queens of Scotland, the rights, freedom, privieledge, and liberty of ane free and royall burgh, as fully and amply as any other frie and royall burgh within this kingdome, with ane yearly free fair and marcat to be holden be them within the said

EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699.

EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699.

burgh upon the said tenth day of August yeirly, with all the privieledges, liberties, tolls, customes, and casualities belonging therto and aryseing therby, together with the office and jurisdictione of shirreffs within themselves and liberties of the said burgh over the wholl inhabitants therof, with all privieledges, fies, casualities and emoluments aryseing be the said office and freedom of the exercise therof within the boundes and territories of the said burgh, and specially be ane chartour made and granted by James the Fourth, King of Scotland, to them and their predecessors in place and office, under his Majesties great seall, daitit the twentie third day of Junij one thousand four hundreth and nyntie six yeares, which hes been ratified and confirmed by the Kings and Queens of Scotland, and als in the parliament of this kingdome, diverse tymes since the granting thereoff; by vertew whereof they and their predecessores have been retaineing the possessione and exercise of shirreffs within themselves; quherby diverse and sundrie debates and controversies hath arysen tuixt them and the shirreffs of Murray, prejudiciall to both pairties; for preventing whereof in tyme comeing, and for obviating and removeing of all ground of debate and controversie that can or may aryse tuixt the saids pairties anent the premisses or any pairt thereof, and that not soe much as the seed of pley may remain to foster, keep up, or maintain the seed of stryff and contention be either pairty against the other toutching any of ther rights and entressis generally and specially above specified, but one the other contrair, to the effect both pairties, may leive together in peace, unity, and concord, without the least incroachment of the one pairtie upon the others rights, privieledges, liberties, intrests, and jurisdiction for the future, both the saides pairties, after mature deliberatione and serious consideratione hade and taken be all of them together and als sewerallie and apairt be themselves toutching their respective rights and intrestes in the premissis, and their weell, utility, and profeit, peace and advantage allwayes forseen and considered, they have, with one mutuall and uniform advyce, counsell, consent, and assent, and with the speciall advyce and councill of their neirest freinds and neighbours, entered into the mutuall contract and aggreement underwrittin, to be and remain as a standing rule and march stone *ad perpetuam remanentiam* tuixt them and their airs and successores in right, place and office, over and beyond which the one of them shall nowayes come or incrotch upon the others right, privie-

ledge and jurisdictione in any tyme comeing, in maner and in the termes followeing, viz. :—[The said Alexander Dunbar for himself and his successors renounced all right not only to the jurisdiction and office of sheriffship within and over the burgh of Forras, burgesses, inhabitants and indwellers within the same and territorities and bounds thereof, with all privileges and emoluments, but also to the market and yearly fair called St Laurences day, or to the freedoms, liberties, tolls, customs, profits, duties, and emoluments pertaining thereto ; together also with the duty called the "assyse ale" or to any yearly duty in use of payment for the same. For which causes and on the other part the town council of Forres, for themselves and on behalf of the community, bound themselves] to furnish and affoord Alexander Dumbar off Westfeild and his aires and successores, shirreffs of Murray, and their deputs in place and office, sufficient prison houses and warding places and guairds and assyssers at all occations necessare as they shall be by him and his forsaides therunto required, and als to doe and perform to him and them all such other deuties and requisits as other burghs within the kingdome, shirreffs within themselves, does or performes to the shirreff principalls of shirres or their deputs in lyke cases, the same being moderately made use of at such tymes and dyets as he and his forsaids, and their forsaides deputs shall find the same necesar and requisit. And moreover the saides magistrates and councill, finding by their own records and documents extracted furth thereof in manner forsaid, and be the constant use and practise of their predecessores and inhabitants of the said burgh tyme out of minde and past all memory of man, that the inhabitants of the said burgh and territories thereof have been still in use and constant custome of bringing their corn of all kynd of grain to the saides milns of Forras and grinding the samen therat as a pairt of the thirlage and sucken thereof and paying the ordinary fies and deuties therfore according to use and vont, and it being most just and reasonable they and their predecessors should containow in the constant use and practise thereof and not abstract therfrae herafter, therfore, and, but any hurt, prejudice, or derogatione to the said use, vont and custome and practice above specifeit, or innovatione thereof in any sort, but in farther corroboratione of the samen *accumulando jura juribus*, the said provost, baillies, and councill of the said burgh of Forras [thirled and astricted themselves and the said burgh, and whole community and inha-

EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699.

EDINBURGH. 10 August 1699.

bitants, "in bound sucken" to the said Alexander Dumbar's mills of Forras, and bound themselves to bring their corn and grain to be ground there, for payment of the multures and duties, and on the other conditions mentioned in the contract.]

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1700.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, James Maclurge, dean of gild, Gidion Eliot, convecner; Perth, George Oliphant; Dundie, John Scrimsour; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirline, Mr Francis Neaper; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, James Mores; Glasgow, John Andersone; Air, John Mure; Hadingtowne, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, Alexander Swinton; Kirkcaldie, Henry Millar; Montross, James Milne; Coupar, Thomas Bethone; Enster Eister, Captain Philp Enster; Dumfreise, Robert Johnstoune; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, Alexander Gedd; Innerkeithing, Robert Baird; Kinghorn, William Smeitton; Breichen, Alexander Young; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Kirkcudbright, James Gordon; Wigtowne, William Coultrane; Dumfermling, Mr James Hamilton; Pittenweem, George Smith; Selkirk, Mr John Murray; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Coline Campble; Dunbar, Robert Fae; Lanerk, Archibald Simpsone; Aberbrothock, Patrick Steiven; Elgine, James Stewart; Peebles, Robert Forrester; Craill, George Moncreiff; Tayne, William Ross; Culross, John Adam; Bamff, John Mark; Whythorn, David Stewart; Forffar, Charles Dicksone; Rothesay, Dougall Stewart; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Rutherglen, John Scot; Northberwick, Archibald Lauder; Cullen, Sir John Hamiltone; Lauder, George Lauder; Kintoir, Mr Robert Patersone; Annan, Mr William Johnstoune; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Galloway, David French; Kilrennie, Alexander Stevinsone; Fortrose, Daniel Simpsone; Dornoch, Sir Adam Gordone; Queensfsrrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Innerara, Hugh Brown; Innerurie, Mr Robert Forbes; Stanraer, William Macteir; (seven burghs *absent*).

2 July 1700.

Preses.
1. George Home of Kello, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Revising commissions.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

Commissions approved.
3. Approved of the commissions.

Alleadgiance and assurance.
4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

Every assessor to qualify before they sitt.
5. The conventione enacts, statuts, and ordains that such assessores as shall in absence of each commissioner supply his place in either generall or particular conventiones shall befor he sitt or have vote qualifie himself

by takeing the said oath of alleadgiance to his Majestie and subscryve the assurance. EDINBURGH. 2 July 1700.

4 July 1700.

6. Appointed a general committee to consider the missive and all other things that shall be remitted to them. Generall comity.

7, 8. Having considered petitions from the burghs of Dumfreise and Dumbartoune, the commissioners appointed committees to visit them and report as to their common good, trade, and public works. Dumfreise, Dumbartoun.

6 July 1700.

9. Anent the supplicatione given in to the conventione by Ronald Campble, writer to the signet, in name and behalf of the provost, baillies, councill, and comunity of the burgh of Campbeltoune, desireing the said burgh to be enrolled among the free royall burghs of this kingdome, conform to ther chartour of erectione granted to them by his Majesty King William, daited at Kensingtoun the nynteen day of Apryll last bye past, presently produced to the generall conventione, the saides commissionars of borrowes haveing considered the samen, and after mature deliberatione hade on the said matter, accepts, inrolls, admitts and receaves the said burgh of Campbeltoune into the fellowship number and societie of the free royall borrows of this kingdome, conform to ther said chartour of erection, and ordains them to have place in all conventiones generall and particular according to this present inrollment and noe otherwayes, and appoynts them to be warned therto conform to the ordour used in such caices, and ordains the said burgh to send with ther commissioner to the nixt generall convention ther approbatione, bond and obleidgement for keeping of all generall and particular conventiones whereunto they shall be warned, and for obeying, fullfilling, and performeing of all acts and ordinances of borrowes made or to be made and for governeing themselves accordingly, and for bearing all such burdens as shall be imposed upon them by the rest of the borrowes according to ther proportione of the taxt roll, and, lastly, in assisting and maintaining the rest of the borrowes in ther just liberties and privieledges according to ther power and abilitie; whereunto the said Ronald Campble, in name and behalf of Campletoun enrolled.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1700.

Campletonn enrolled.

the said provost, baillies, councill and comunity of the said burgh of Campbeltoune, consented and aggreed to and took instruments upon the premissis, and band and obleidged him in name and behalf forsaid for sending of the forsaid bond to the said nixt generall convention, and for performance of the haill premissis, subscryved thir presents, at Edinburgh, the (*blank*) day of July instant. RON. CAMPBELL.

Douglas, factor.

10. Agreed to the admission of James Douglas, merchant in Edinburgh, to be a factor at the staple port of Campheir.

Taxt roll.

11. Continued the present tax roll unaltered till next general convention.

List of burghs of baronie and regalitie.

12. The conventione haveing considered the comities report anent the thretie seventh article of the misive, they appoint each royall burgh to give in a trew list of such burghs of barronies, regalities, and other unfree places, as trades by export and import within ther sewerall precints, and of ther sewerall trads, and what quotas they may pay of the taxt roll for the benefeit of ther unfree trads, and such burghs as cannot presently give in such lists that they give in the same betuixt and the nynth day of Jully instant, to the end the lords and others of the commissione of trade may be acquainted thereof.

9 July 1700.

Master of conserjorie house.

13. On the supplication of John Gordon, late bailie of Aberdeen, the convention admitted him to be master of the conserjorie house at Campheir.

Stewart, factor.

14. The convention agreed to the admission of Robert Stewart, merchant in Roterdam, to be a factor at Campheir.

Staple factors.

15. Having heard complaints against several factors residing at Campheer, the convention ordained "that ther be be noe additione given to any factors whatsomever for answering bills att Roterdam more then ther ordinar provisions of two and ane half per cent."

Allowing £300 to Edinburgh.

16. The convention haveing heard and considered the report of the comity anent the representatione given in by the good towne of Edinburgh, and that the alteratione of the present taxt roll is delayed to be taken wnder consideratione till Jully j^{m} vij^{c} and one, therfor they appoint Mr John Buchan, ther agent, to pay the good towne the sowme of three hundreth pounds sterline mony as a small gratuity in consideration of ther loss and damnadges, to be payed conforme to the present taxt roll,

and containowes the caice and conditione of the good toun to be considered as a head of the nixt generall missive for ane ease of the taxt roll. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

17. Ratified and confirmed to John Somervail in Leidingtowne, factor for the Earl of Dysart, and William Maccall, late provost of Hadingtoune, "and ther aires and assignayes of noe higher degree then themselves," a tack granted by the town council of Hadingtowne of the town's common corn mills and kiln and office of master miller of these corn mills called the West Mill, and the East or Kirk Mill, with ther common walk mill and houses thereto belonging, together with the easter haugh of the said burgh, and with thirlage, commodities, and privileges thereto belonging, and that for the space of nineteen years from Martinmas last, for the yearly payment of 3670 marks Scots of tack duty. Tack of Hadingtoune mills ratified.

18. Anent the petition given in to the generall conventione by the provost, baillies, town councill, and deacons of crafts of the burgh of Dundie, mentioneing that the said burgh, amongst other lands, hes purchast a right to the superiority of the lands of Kirktowne from the Earle of Lauderdale, holden few by them of the Marqueis of Douglas, and of them blench by the heretor thereof, and they haveing applyed to the Marqueis of Douglas and his commissionars for receaveing them vassalls in the saids lands, they absolutly refused to doe the same unless they payed a far greater compositione then ever they wold reap benefeit therby, in regaird of ther being a comunity, soe that the supperior would loss the benefeit of entries in all tyme comeing, and seeing they could propose noe advantage but rather loss if they should enter themselves by the Marqueis of Douglas, because there is only a blench duty payable to them furth of the saides lands, creavand therfor that the conventione would be pleased to authorize the saids magistrats to sell and dispone the supperiority of the saids lands of Kirktowne to the present heretor of the samen or any other persone they shall think fitt and to ratifie the dispositione thairof alreadie made by them, as the petition bears; which being considered by the conventione they [ratified and confirmed the disposition granted by the magistrates of Dundie in favor of John Scrimsour of Kirktowne of the superiority of these lands.] Dundie, disposition of lands of Kirktowne.

19. Having considered a petition by the burgh of Kinghorn, craving a supply for the building of their harbour, the convention appointed a committee to visit the pier and report their opinion. Kinghorn.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

Demission, Stewart, factor.

20. Gilbert Stewart, factor at Campheir, gave in the dimission of his office of factory which was accepted.

Contract between Glasgow and Dumbarton.

21. The convention having considered the contract and agreement between Glasgow and Dumbartoun which these burghs desire to be ratified, they instructed the clerk to record the contract with their ratification after the dissolving of this convention.

Pantoun, factor.

22. Renewed the act of admission of Robert Pantoun to be a factor at Campheir and received obligation by his cautioners.

Elgine, pier.

23. Appointed the agent to make payment to the burgh of Elgine of 200 marks towards the building of a pier at the mouth of the Lossie, "the samen being a generall concern of the borrowes."

Comity to visit Jedburgh.

24. Anent the petition given in by the commissionar for the town of Jedburgh to the conventione, mentioneing that where it is verie weell knowen to the conventione that the said town of Jedburgh payed only seaventeen shillings in the taxt roll till Jully j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty seaven yeares, and then the generall conventione at Perth added nyne shillings of farder burden, which was suppriseall and matter of admiratione not only to the said towne of Jedburgh but to all the neighbours that knew the conditione of the samen, and they haveing groaned wnder the said unsupporteable burden these three years bygone and haveing got no help nor releiff they were forced to contract debt, nor is the said burgh able to bear the publict burdens and soe may expect to be exhausted totally by pairties quartering upon them except the conventione take some present course for giveing some help whereby they may be in condition to subsist till the nixt year that the taxt roll be altered, creaveand therfor that the conventione would be pleased to take the premissis to ther serious consideration and allow some releiff, that the utter ruine of the said burgh of Jedburgh may be prevented, as the petition beares ; which being considered by the conventione they appoint the caice and conditione of the said burgh of Jedburgh, together with ther visitation, to be a head of the nixt generall missive for geting ane ease in the taxt roll.

Conserjorie house.

25. The convention statuts and ordains that in all tyme comeing ther shall be no exactione by the present conservator or any succeeding him in the said office from the master of the conserjorie house at Campheir, and hereby rescinds all acts of borrowes in the contrair, and appoints the present maister of the conserjorie house to sell all his wines and beir a fourth pairt less then it gives in Dutch houses at Campheir.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

26. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Whythorn and to report as to their common good and trade.

Whythorn.

27. Having considered the committee's report anent the debates between the conservator and Robert Panton, factor in Campheir, the convention appointed that there should be a mutual discharge between the parties of each others claims.

Conservator and Pantoun.

28. The conservator and Robert Pantoun, in obedience to the foregoing act, discharged each other of "all claggs, claimes, debaits, contraversies, playes, and processes for whatsomever cause or occatione bygone preceeding the dait heirof."

Mutuall discharge between conservator and Pantoun.

29. The conventione haveing considered sewerall representationes given in to them against the lord conservator, wherein they have not now tyme to enquyre and to make such scrutinie as were necessarie in ordor to ane decisione, doe therfor think fitt to pass over the samen, but declaire that in caice any complaints shal be offered and instructed against him for heireifter that the conventione will proceed against the said conservator as the merits of the cause shall require, and in the mean tyme recomendes to him that he may use all dew methods to keep the staple port both as to merchants and factores in peace and queit and that non may have just cause to complaine.

Act anent conservator.

30. [Referring to the third article of the staple contract, the convention agreed to] wryt to the magistrats of Campheir that notwithstanding of the said third article that all salmond comeing to Campheir at any tyme befor the first of November yeirly after they make offer thereof and staying only eight dayes therafter may goe to any other place, and that all stockens comeing to Campheir in caice ther be no seal therfor may be transported within fourteen dayes therafter to any other place.

Salmond and stockens comeing to staple port.

30*a*. [Appointed a committee to meet] after disolveing this convention and to wryt answers to the sewerall letteres sent to the conventione by the states of Zeland, magistrats of Campheir and Mr Ryx, as also to take wnder ther consideration the deficiencie of the two hundreth and eighteen pownd, sterline, yeit resting of Andrew Myrtowns fyve hundreth pownds, sterline, by the unfreetraders, and to call befor them Mr Rutherfoord, collector appointed for that effect, and to examine what is deficient thereof soe as to make what is resting effectwall, as also if they think fitt to imploy lawiers and debait ther right, and use ther outmost endeavours to remove the quartering, and if need beis to appoint Mr John Buchan, ther agent, to pay the said sowme, and to ordain quartering upon all deficient, and inquir how the former quartering was taken of; to meet at

Comitie to sitt after disolveing conventione.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

Edinburgh, Tuesday nixt, being the sexteenth instant, and to adjourn themselves from tyme to tyme as they see cause.

Staple factors.

31. The convention, considering that thair are sewerall complaints against the staple factors residing at Campheir for trading in staple goodes contrair to the act of thair admissione and the sewerall acts of borrowes, doe therfor discharge all factors resideing at Campheir from tradeing in staple goodes, with certificatione if they faillie that they shall be proceeded against by the conventione and *ipso facto* deprived of ther office, and heirby revives all acts and statutes dischargeing factors to trade in staple goodes, and as to what concernes Mr Robert Pantons wyfes renounciatione the convention delayes any prosecutione in that affair untill they give further ordors theranent.

Supplicatione anent the unfra trade.

32. The conventione haveing considered the supplicatione to be given in by them to the lords and others of the commissione appointed for regulatione of trade, they approve thereof and appoynts the same to be recorded, whereof the tenor followes :—Unto the right honorabill the lords and others of the commission for the unfree trade, the supplicatione of the commissioners of the royall borrowes to this present generall conventione, humbly sheweth—That where your petitioners haveing hade ane act of parliament made in ther favours for releiveing them of ten pounds of the taxt roll from the unfree traders of this kingdome for the space of fyve yeirs now bygone, and by ane act of the last session of parliament his Majestie wes graciously pleased to nominat ane commissione for adjusting what proportione the unfree traders should bear of the taxt roll for tyme comeing, conforme whereunto your lordships being nominat for that effect have hade sewerall meetings and given your decreit and sentance as to bygones preceeding Candlemas 1699, and seeing the convention of borrowes cannot proceed to determine the alteratione of ther taxt roll untill your lordship be pleased first to determine the quota payable be the unfree traders and what proportione they will accept of and pay of the taxt roll, soe as by the proportion the unfree traders payes of the taxt roll the royall borrowes will be able to releive such of thair number as groans and desires to be releived of thair heavie proportione of the present taxt roll, may it therfor please your lordships to take the premissis to your serious consideratione, and with your first convenience to determine the sewerall quotas payable by the unfree traders, otherwayes that your lordships would

be pleased to reject thair offers and allow the royall borrows to proceed against them conform to the severall acts of parliament and acts of borrows anent unfree traders. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

33. The conventione recomends to the commissionars of parliament who represents the sewerall burghs of this kingdome that they use ther outmost endeavours in tyme comeing to discharge John Adairs and Mr Fletchers dewes upon shipping, and the great greivance of Evan Macgrigor and his pairtners manufactorie of broad cairds, and that the weight of Orknay butter be regulat to two hunder weight neat each barrell, and appoints the agent to concurr with and assist therein. Shipping, broad cairds, Orknay butter.

34. Ordained that if the lord conservator has uplifted any dues on corn since the prohibition he should refund the same. Conservator, dues on corn.

35. Appointed reports of visitations of several burghs to be a head of next general missive. Visitations of burghs.

36. Having considered a petition of Archibald Sympsone, bailie of Lanark, mentioning that his goods have been arrested by the clerk of Borrowstounness, for £5 sterling imposed on him for unfree trade though he is an actual residenter in Lanark, the convention appointed the agent to assist him on the general expenses of the burghs, "with this proviso iff he be found guiltie of ordinarie retailling in smalls or keeping of open shope in Borrowstounness, in that caice that he refound the agent what shall be expended in the cause." Archibald Symsones goods arrested in Borrowstounness.

37. Renewed the act of admission of John Hamilton to be factor at Campheir who found caution. Hamiltoune, factor.

38. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Rothesay and report as to their common good and trade. Rothesay.

39. Approved of the agents account of disbursements from Jully 1699 to Jully 1700, extending to £18,138, 10s. 4d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions. The following items are contained in the accounts:— Agents accompts approven.

Item, to the Gazetier,	£360	0	0
Item, to the Affrican Company,	1864	2	0
Item, to the lord chancellors servants of drink mony when the borrows went to visit him last conventione,	17	8	0
Item, to my lord secretaries Seafield and Carmichaels and the Earle of Annandals servants at that tyme,	29	0	0
Item, to coach hyres the tyme of the last conventiones in goeing to the abbay to visit the Chancellor Annandale, the secretaries, and soliciting other bussines then and since,	20	0	0
Item, to consulting my lord advocat for draweing the proclamatione anent the unfree traders, to him and servants,	39	17	0

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

Agents accompts approven.

Item, to printing misive and wryting advertisements to the haill borrows giveing accompt of Andrew Miretouns mony befor it was payable, ... 14 10 0

Item, to postage of letteres from the conservator anent the borrowes, and from severall borrowes with reports of the unfree traders and other bussines, ... 18 0 0

Gordon, factor. 40. Renewed the act of admission of John Gordon, factor in Campheir, who found caution.

Perth. 41. Appointed the agent "to concurr with and assist the burgh of Perth against John Ogilvie, bailly of the regality of Coupar of Angus, for imposeing dewes upon ther inhabitants for unfree trade.

Act in favours of Mr John Buchan. 43. Referring to the 4th act of convention dated 24th March 1697 and the 15th act dated 19th November 1697, and John Buchan having repaid both sums advanced to him, the convention "declair that the said Mr John Buchan, ther agent, hes releived the royall borrowes of ther said cautionry for the forsaids two sowmes of twenty thousand marks, annualrents and penaltie, contained in the saids two bonds and acts of borrowes."

Petition anent the wooll. 44. Ther being ane petition read in presence of the conventione for stoping the exportation of wooll, wherof the tenor followes: Unto the right honorable my lord chancellor and the lords of his Majesties theasaurie and exchequer, the supplicatione of the commissioners of the royall burghs to this present generall conventione, humbly sheweth,—That notwithstanding of the good lawes made against exportatione of wooll furth of this realme, yeit the same hes been exported and is dayly exported to the ruine of the manufactors of this nation and the starveing many poor people that leived by the manufacturing of the wooll, therfor the commissioners of the royall borrowes presently conveened in thair generall conventione doe make thair most humble and earnest address to your lordships, as the proper judges to whom the execution of the laws is incumbent, to make strick inquire into the exportatione of all wooll soe contrair to law, and to prosecut the transgressores and all persones accessory therto conforme to law, and your lordships would be pleased to enquire and authorize his Majestics advocat to prosecut them accordingly without delay, especially seeing wee are informed that the transgressors doe collour thair delinquencies by obtaining transiers or sufferances to transport the said wool from one port to ane other, and yeit without goeing to the said port the same is exported to forraigne ports; therfor your lordships would be favourable pleased to obleidge the receavers of the said sufferances or

transieries to unload at the port designed and obtain ane certificat accordingly that the samen is unloaded accordingly, otherwayes that it shall be holden as exported abroad contrairie to law, and that your lordships would be pleased to take such other measours as your lordships shall think fitt for preventing the exportatione of wooll in tyme comeing; as also that great quantities of forraigne wooll being imported to this kingdome to be exported thair is great occatione to export considerable quantities of the native product therwith, which makes the saids laws and acts elusorie, that your lordships would be pleased to declair that for heirafter all forraigne wooll being imported to this kingdome the same should not be exported. May it therfor please your lordships to take the premissis to your consideratione and to prescrive such effectwall methods against the exportation of wooll in all tyme comeing as your lordships shall think fitt; and your petitioners shall ever pray. Which petitioun they appoint Mr John Buchan, thair agent, [to present] to the theasurie and exchequer and report his dilligence. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700. Petition anent the wooll.

45. The conventione statuts and ordains the first article of the nixt generall misive in maner followeing, viz., that each burgh in obedience to his Majesties lettres and acts of borrowes send thair commissioners sufficiently instructed for keeping the conventione, with ther commissions wnder the comon seal and subscriptione of ther magistrats or comon clerk, testifieing them to be men fearing God, of the trew protestant religion publictly professed and authorized by the lawes of this kingdome, without suspitione in the contrair, expert in the comon affairs of the borrowes, merchants, tradsmen, and inhabitants within the said burgh, bearing all portable charges with his neighbours and bears a pairt of thair public burdens, and can tin and win in all ther affairs; wnder the pain of 100 lib. Scots; or if the person elected commissioner be not ane merchant traffecquer and residenter that he be testified to be a member representing the said burgh in the current parliament for the tyme, and that the haill commissions be according to this present platforme in all tyme comeing, inviolably to be observed by ilk burgh heirafter, wnder the forsaid penalty, by and attour the casting of thair commissions and the penalty of 1000 marks to be payed be each burgh granting commissions to persons not qualified in maner abonewrittin; and this instead of all former plate- Act altering the plateform.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

formes which are heirby rescinded in soe far as they are inconsistent thairwith.

Compend of acts, reports of burghs.

46. The conventione haveing considered that Æneas Macleod, thair generall clerk, did, conform to the 44 article of the last misive, produce in presence of the convention the compend of the acts, statuts, and constitutions of the generall and particular conventions to Jully 1700 yeirs, together with the abreviat of the said compend, as also that he hade recorded the wholl reports of the particular burghs of this kingdome made by the visitors appointed for that effect in Jully 1691, with ane Index thairof, which being considered by the conventione they accept therof as good and acceptable service done to the royall borrowes; therfor they appoynt the said compend with the abreviat therof and recording of the particular visitationes, with the said Æneas Macleod his great trouble and paynes in soe usefull and necessarie a work, be containowed as a head of the nixt generall misive.

Æneas M'Leods demission.

47. The same day, Æneas Macleod, generall clerk to the royall borrowes, haveing in presence of the conventione freely demitted his office as clerk in the hands of the generall conventione to be disposed of by them at ther pleasour, and which being considered by the conventione they accept therof and declaires that he hes faithfully served the royall borrowes dureing the wholl tyme of his office, doe therfor allow him the sowme of one thousand pounds Scots mony as a gratuity, and ordains the agent to make present payment therof.

Clerks elected.

48. The conventione, considering the abilities and good qualificationes of Mr George Home and Mr James Stewart, conjunct toun clerks of Edinburgh, and ther fitnes to exerce the office of being conjunct generall clerks to the royall borrows, they have elected, nominat, and chosen, and by thir presents elects, nominats, and choises the saides Mr George Home and Mr James Stewart conjunct generall clerks to the royall borrowes dureing ther pleasour, and allowes to them the fies, dewes, and emoluments belonging to the said office, with power to them to uplift the same, sicklyck and als freely in all respects as any former clerk or clerks hes been in use to doe, and the saides Mr George Home and Mr James Stewart compeiring accepting thair office, made faith *de fidelj*, and in presence of the conventione did take the oath of alleadgiance to his Majestie and subscrived the assurrance.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

John Buchan's cess.

49. The conventione, considering that Mr John Buchan by his contract at Dundie is bound to produce to the generall conventione sufficient discharges of all the cess whereof he was obleidged to releive the royall borrowes be the said contract, and he haveing declared that the receipts granted to him by the generall receavers and ther deputs were brunt in the lait fire, and haveing in presence of the conventione produced ane extract wnder Robert Rutherfoords hands wherby it is evident that all the cess is payed except eight hundreth and fyftein pownd sterline due to Sir James Oswald and James Dunlop, for clearing of which eight hundreth and fyftein pownd sterline a declaratione wnder the hand of the said James Dunlop is produced bearing that ten thousand merks were payed in therof to Sir James Oswald and him and recept granted therupon which was brunt in the lait fire, and as for the ballance, extending to two hundreth and fyfty nyne pounds, a coppie of arreistment at the instance of Sir John Shaw of Greenock and others for the sowme of one thousand pound sterline in the hands of the said Mr John was produced; the conventione appoints the said Mr John to pay in the said sowme of two hundreth and fyfty nine pound sterline and recover discharge therof against the nixt generall convention, or to consigne the same in the hands of the magistrats of Edinburgh and recover the towns bond therfor.

Servants.

50. Ordained the agent to pay certain sums to the depute clerk, servants, macers and others.

Records.

51. Appointed the whole records and warrants of the royal burghs to be delivered up to the present clerks.

Convention dissolved.

52. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1701.

Contract between Glasgow and Dumbartoun, ratified 9 July 1700.

CONTRACT and AGREEMENT between the burghs of Glasgow and Dumbarton, dated 12th, 28th and 29th June 1700, referred to in the 21st act of last General Convention.

In the generall convention of borrowes holdin at the burgh of Edinburgh upon the nynth day of Jully one thousand seven hundred years, the which day the generall conventione of the royall borrowes doe ratifie, approve, and confirme, and by thir presents approves, ratifies, and confirmes the contract and agreement past betuixt the burghs of Glasgow and Dumbartoun, wherof the tenor followes: Att Edinburgh, Dumbartoun and Glasgow the tuelth, tuentie eight, and tuentie nynth dayes of June, j^{m} vij^{c}

EDINBURGH. July 1700.

Contract between Glasgow and Dumbartoun.

years, it is appointed, contracted, and finally ended and agreed betuixt the parties following, to witt, [the provost, bailies, dean of guild, deacon convener and treasurer, with consent of the councillors of the burgh of Glasgow, for themselves and the remanent burgesses, deacons of crafts and community of the burgh, on the one part; and the provost, bailies, dean of guild and treasurer, with consent of the councillors of the burgh of Dumbarton, for themselves and the remanent burgesses, deacons of crafts and communitie of the burgh, on the other part;] in maner, forme, and effect following, that is to say:—Forsuameikle as the saids two burghs of Glasgow and Dumbartoun and representatives therof found it mutually prejudiciall to others that of a long tyme bygone ther hes not been that correspondence keeped up betuixt them which would have tended considerably to both their advantages, and that this hath chiefly arysen from ther sewerall pretensions to the priviledges of the river of Clyde, in the prosecutione wherof many differences have fallen out, and at lenth ther was ane actione and cause of declarator first raised and intented before the late pretended commissioners for administratione of justice to the people of Scotland, at the instance of [Glasgow and against Dumbarton, "and therafter wakned and insisted upon befor the lords of councill and session," and other litigation between the burghs followed, upon which] the lords of councill and session found and declaired that the saids provost, baillies, council and communitie of the burgh of Dumbartoun haue no right to exact or uplift from the inhabitants, burgessis, and community of the said burgh of Glasgow, nor any veshells and ships belonging to them or fraughted by them arriveing in the said river of Clyde at the forsaids roads and ports of Pottereig, Inchgreen, and Newwark, any anchoradge, measuradge, weyadge, tunnadge, dockmeall, cocketts, or other dews whatsomever, and found and declaired that it is lawfull for the saids provost, baillies, councill, inhabitants and communitie of Glasgow to arrive with ther saids ships and goods in the river of Clyde, and speciallie at the forsaids roads and ports of Pottereig, Inchgreen, and Newwark, and to load and unload thair, and to transport their goods upon the river of Clyde to the said toun of Glasgow, free of the burden of the forsaid pretended dewties of anchoradge, weyadge, measuradge, tunnadge, dockmeall, cockets, and other dews whatsomever, to the said toun of Dumbartoun; and decerned and ordained the saids provost, baillies, councill, communitie, burgessis and

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

Contract between Glasgow and Dumbartoun.

inhabitants of the said burgh of Dumbartoun, to desist and sease from all troubleing, molesting or impediment makeing to the pursewers, provost, baillies, councill, burgessis and inhabitants of the said burgh of Glasgow, present and to come, in arriveing with their ships and goods upon the said river of Clyde, and loading and unloading their ships and goods at the saids roads and ports of Pottereig, Inchgreen and Newwark, and transporting their goods from thence to Glasgow, free of the burden of the forsaid pretendit dewes or any of them to the said burgh of Dumbartoun, as parties haveing no right therto, in sua farr as is above found, decerned and declaired, notwithstanding of their action of declarator pursewed against the said burgh of Glasgow, magistrats, inhabitants, and comunitie therof, which, together with the charters, infeftments, books of enteries, other rights and depositions of witnessis, adduced be the said burgh of Dumbartoun, is at length therwith considered, and frae whilk by decreet of the date of thir presents, the saids magistrats, communitie, and inhabitants of the said burgh of Glasgow are fully assoilzied and exonered in maner at length specifiet in the said decreet, as the samen of the date at Edinburgh the eight day of Februarij j^{m} vj^{c} threescore six years, at more length bears; notwithstanding of which decreet ther haveing sewerall new questions arisen betuixt the saids two burghs anent the extent of their sewerall priviledges, which hes occasioned much animositie and difference, besyds the charges and expenssis therof, for preventing wherof in tyme comeing, and to the effect ther may be a lasting freindship and dew correspondence inviolably observed betuixt the saids two burghs in all tyme heirafter, therfor the saids provost, baillies, dean of gild, thesaurer and toun councill of the said burgh of Dumbartoun, for themselves and in name and behalf of and takeing burden upon them as said is, doe by thir presents ratifie, approue, and confirme the forsaid decreet of declarator obtained at the instance of the toun of Glasgow befor the lords of councill and session against the toun of Dumbartoun in anno j^{m} vj^{c} and sixtie six, declairing the priviledges therin decerned to belong to the said toun of Glasgow, as also the forsaid other decreet of absolvitor obtained at the instance of the said magistrats and toun of Glasgow against the magistrats and toun of Dumbartoun in the year forsaid, wherby the said toun of Glasgow is assoilzied from the declarator raised against them at the instance of Dumbartoun anent certaine priviledges of the river of

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

Contract between Glasgow and Dumbartoun.

Clyde therin mentioned, in the haill heads, articles, and claussis therof, with the possession attained by the said burgh of Glasgow and their burgessis and inhabitants by vertew of the saids decreets, wherby they are and have been free of the haill dewties formerlie acclamed by the magistrats and burgh of Dumbartoun upon accompt of their ships and veshells loading and livering within the river of Clyde, which dewtye and impositions are heirby discharged in all tyme comeing; and the saids magistrats and toun councill of Dumbartoun, for themselves and in name and behalf forsaid, doe heirby bind and obleidge them and their successors in office that they shall never stop, trouble, or molest the burgessis, inhabitants, and others belonging to the toun of Glasgow in tyme comeing in the peaceable possessione of the rights and priviledges decerned in favours of the said burgh of Glasgow by the forsaid decreets and sentances of declarator and absolvitor respective, and the saids magistrats and toun councill of Dumbartoun shall not move any actione, place, or question, against them theranent, nor against their successors in any tyme heirafter; and sicklyke, the saids provost, baillies, and councill of the burgh of Dumbartoun, and deacons of crafts, for themselves and in name and behalf of and takeing burden upon them as said is haveing considered that the dewties wherunto they have right of weyadge, tunnadge, anchoradge, measuradge, dockmeall, cockets, and other dewes quhatsomever payable to the burgh of Dumbartoun by all strangers ships unloading within the river of Clyde, hath created the said toun of Dumbartoun ane great dale of trouble and vexatione, besyds the expensis in uplifting therof, which most ordinarly exceeded the dewes themselves; as also considering that divers and sundrie debats and questions have fallen out betuixt the saids two burghs anent the uplifting of the saids dewes, the town of Glasgow pretending that by vertew of their decreets abovementioned pronounced in their favour that any of the burgessis of Glasgow haveing interest by fraught or otherwayes in these strangers ships did make the samen free of dewtie to the burgh of Dumbartoun; lykeas the said burgh of Dumbartoun being oft tymes defrauded of the dewties payable by strangers who had no shift nor excuse but haveing past speedily out of the river befor ever the said burgh of Dumbartoun was acquanted of their comeing therto; and farder, ane other debate hes frequentlie happened anent the touns offers dew and in use to be payed by all strangers who

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

Contract between Glasgow and Dumbartoun.

imported goods and merchandize to the said river of Clyde, wherby they stand obleidged to make the first offer of ther goods and mechandize sua imported by them to the saids two burghs of Glasgow and Dumbartoun, at such a price and rate as the said strangers offerers shall not have power or liberty to undersell the samen to others, and it haveing often happened that both the said burghs were disappointed of the benefites of the saids offers by certaine stratagemes and devyces made by the importers as sometyme by consignatione of the goods imported to some of the burgessis of the saids burghs, therby simulating to them a right wheras in effect they had non but of purpose to defraud the saids burghs of their just rychts, and in the mean tyme raising therby ane animosity betuixt the burghs themselves anent the benefits of the saids offers, wherof both were disappointed, and it being therfor aggreed that not only the dewes payable by the strangers ships who have no interest in the river of Clyde but also the benefite and priviledge of the touns offers should in all tyme comeing solly appertane and belong to the saids magistrats, toun councill, and comunitie of the burgh of Glasgow. Therfor, and for certaine other onerous caussis after mentioned, the saids provost, baillies, and toun councill of the burgh of Dumbartoun, for themselves and in name and behalf of the deacons of crafts and comunitie of the samen burgh, to have sold, assigned, and disponed from them and their successors in office, lykeas they doe by these presents sell, assigne, and dispone from them and their forsaids successors, to and in favours of the saids provost, baillies, councill and comunitie of the said burgh of Glasgow, and their successors, &c., all and haill the saids dewties formerlie payable to the said burgh of Dumbartane of weyadge, tunnadge, anchoradge, measuradge, dockmeall, cokets, and haill other dewties whatsomever, dew and payable by all ships, barks, &c., wherof the freemen inhabitants of the said burgh of Dumbartane are not ouners or fraughters, and who shall happine to load or unload within the samen river of Clyde in all tyme comeing; and sicklyke all and haill the said burgh of Dumbartoun their share and proportion of any offers dew and lyable to be made by strangers not freemen, inhabitants of the said burgh of Dumbartane, who shall import any goods to the said river of Clyde in tyme comeing, with all right, title, interest, property and possession, als weell petitor as possessor, whilks the saids magistrats councill and comunitie of the said burgh of Dumbartane had, hes, or anywayes may have,

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700.

Contract between Glasgow and Dumbartoun.

clame or pretend in, and to the saids dewties particularlie above wryten and touns offers above mentioned, and to and in favours of the saids provost, baillies, toun councill and comunity of the said burgh of Glasgow, present and to come, whom they have surrogate and heirby surrogats and substituts in their full pouer, right, title, and place of the premissis for now and ever; with full power to the saids provost, baillies, and toun councill of Glasgow and their successores, for themselves and in name and behalf above wryten, to intromet with, uplift, ask, creave, and receave the saids dewties of weyadge, tunnadge, anchoradge, measureadge, dockmeall, cockets, and other dewes whatsomever, as also the touns offers in sua farr as the samen did formerlie belong to the said burgh of Dumbartane, with the haill profits, priviledges, emoluments, casualties and dewties belonging therto, and if neid beis to conveen, call, follow and pursew therfore, and to use all dilligence and executione for inbringing of the samen, sicklyke and als freelie in all respects as the saids provost, baillies, and councill of the burgh of Dumbartoun or their predecessors have done or might have done at any tyme befor the makeing heirof; provyding alwayes that thir presents doe noewayes prejudge the said burgh of Dumbartane as to the freedomes, liberties, and immunities of all ships, barks, boats, &c., belonging to or fraughted by the burgessis and freemen inhabitants of the said burgh within the said river of Clyde notwithstanding of what is above disponed to the said burgh of Glasgow [Here follows a formal clause of warrandice from fact and deed and procuratory of resignation]. And farder it is expreslie aggreed betuixt the representatives of the saids two burghs of Glasgow and Dumbartane that in all tyme heirafter the veshells of whatsomever syce or burden belonging to the burgh of Glasgow, Port Glasgow, and haill burgessis and inhabitants therof, that shall happine to come to the harbor of Dumbartane or any other port or harbor belonging to the said burgh, shall have exemptione from and shall not be lyable unto the payment of any dewtie whatsomever to the said burgh of Dumbartane, and in lyke maner that the haill veshells and boats belonging to the burgessis, inhabitants of the burgh of Dumbartane, are exeemed from and nowayes lyable in payment of any dewty whatsomever at the said burgh of Glasgow, Broom-of-law, Port Glasgow, or any other port or harbor belonging to them, so that both burghs are heirby declaired free at each others ports in all tyme heirefter; provydeing

alwayes, lykeas it is heirby expreslie provyded and declaired that nether of the saids two burghs nor their burgessis and inhabitants shall be allowed to collour the veshells belonging to unfree men under the collour of their oun in any tyme coming. And in respect that the saids provost, baillies, dean of gild and thesaurer of the said burgh of Glasgow haue, for and in consideratione of the premissis, instantly payed to the saids provost, baillies, dean of gild and thesaurer of the said burgh of Dumbartoun, to be imployed for the use after specifiet, all and haill the soume of four thousand and five hundreth merks good and usuall Scots money, wherof they hold them weell content, satisfied and payed, and discharges the samen for ever; therfor the saids magistrats of the burgh of Dumbartane doe heirby bind and obleidge them and declair that the forsaid soume shall be applyed by the said burgh of Dumbartane, for payment of their burghs debt *pro tanto*, to the effect it may therby appear that the forsaid transactione is reasonable and onerous and that the successors in office of both the saids burghs may have no ground to apprehend that this present contract is proceeded upon frae any collusione of the present magistrats and councills but upon fair and just grounds tending to the benefite and advantage of both the saids burghs. [It was, lastly, provided that the contract was not to take effect till ratified by parliament.]

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1700. Contract between Glasgow and Dumbartoun.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1701.

Edinburgh, Sir James Maclurge, dean of gild, Gideon Elliot, conveener; Perth, George Oliphant; Dundie, John Scrimsour; Aberdeen, John Allardes; Stirline, Henrie Christiesone; Linlithgow, Adam Bucknay; St Andrews, James Mores; Glasgow, John Andersone; Aire, Robert Mure; Hadingtoune, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, Alexander Swintoune; Kirkcaldie, Henrie Oswald; Montrose, Robert Rennald; Coupar, Thomas Beaton; Easter Enster, Philp Enster; Dumfreise, Robert Johnstoune; Invernese, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, Alexander Gedd; Inverkeithing, Sir David Thoirs; Kinghorn, William Smeiton; Breichen, John Doig; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Kirkcudbright, Sir Andrew Home; Wigtoune, William Coultrane; Pittenweem, George Smith; Dumfermling, Mr James Hamilton; Enster Wester, Sir Robert Enster; Selkirk, Mr John Murray; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Coline Campble; Dumbar, Robert Kirkwood; Lanerk, Archibald Simpson; Aberbrothock, John Pearsone; Elgine, George Chalmers; Peebles, Archibald Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1701.

Sederunt. Sheill; Craill, George Moncreiff; Tayne, Æneas Macleod; Cullros, Robert Adam; Bamff, Robert Sanders; Whythorn, David Stewart; Forffar, Charles Dicksone; Rothesay, Mr Dougall Stewart; Nairne, John Rose; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Rutherglen, John Scot; Northberwick, John Horne; Cullen, Sir John Hamiltoun; Lauder, George Walker; Kilrennie, Alexander Stevinsone; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Sanquhair, James Huntar; Galloway, David French; Dingwall, John Bayne; Dornoch, *absent;* Queensferrie, Sir William Hamiltoun; Fortrose, Daniel Simsone; Kintoir, Mr Robert Patersone; Innerurie, Mr Robert Forbes; Innerara, James Campble; Week, James Sinclair; Kirkwall, Sir Alexander Home; Inverbervie, Alexander Arbuthnet; Stanraer, John Dumbar; Campbletown, Alexander Rowat.

1 July 1701.

Johnstoun preses. 1. Sir Patrick Johnstoun, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Committee. 2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

2 July 1701.

Comisions approven. 3. The convention having considered report of the committee, they approved of the whole commissions excepting that of Pittenweem "which is unformall, the same haveing two commissioners insert therin as commissioners and not as commissioner and assessor, yeit in respect one of them representis the said burgh in parliament and is a person sufficiently qualified they dispence with the said unformality but appoynts the samen to be amendit for the future conforme to the plateforme."

Alleadgiance and assurance. 4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

Generall comitty. 5. Appointed a general committee to revise the commissions.

Rothesay. 6. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Rothesay and to report as to their common good and trade.

Tax roll continued. 7. Continued the present tax roll unaltered till next general convention, reserving power to alter the locallings of the £10 which was to be paid by unfree traders and to grant gratifications to burghs.

Edinburgh, £500. 8. The convention haveing heard and considered the report of the comity anent the representatione given in by the good toune of Edinburgh, and that the alteration of the present taxt roll is delayed to be taken under consideratione till the nixt generall conventione in Jully j^{m} vij^{c} and two, therfor they appoynt the agent to pay to the good towne the sowme of fyve hundreth pownd sterline as a gratuity in consideration of ther loss and damnadges, to be payed conform to the present taxt roll,

and containows the caice and conditione of the good towne to be considered as a head of the nixt generall misive for geting ane ease of the taxt roll. EDINBURGH. 2 July 1701. Edinburgh, £500.

9. The conventione considering that if they would proceed to the localling of the ten pounds which was to have been payed by the unfree burghs of regalitie and barronie it would occation a great deall of debate and trouble, therefor the conventione delayes the same to their nixt generall conventione, but reserves power to themselves to grant such gratificationes to such of ther number upon whom the said ten pound was proportioned as they shall think fitt, and that for ther releiff untill the nixt generall conventione. Continuing localling of £10.

7 July 1701.

10. Allowed to the burgh of Jedburgh 500 marks Scots "of gratificatione in consideration of ther present circumstances." Jedburgh, 500 marks.

11. Appointed "the report of the comity anent the caice and conditione of the burgh of Linlithgow" to be a head of next missive. Linlithgow.

12. Ordained the agent to pay to the burgh of Pittenweem 200 marks Scots "to be imployed by them towards the present repairatione of their peir and harbour." Pittenweem.

13. Delayed till next general convention consideration of petitions from several burghs and reports by those who visited them. Petitions delayed.

9 July 1701.

14. The conventione, considering that by the . . . act of the last generall conventione Mr John Buchan, ther agent, was expresly appointed vigorously to persew all the breakers of the staple port and put all laws made in relation to the staple port in full executione against them, to deteir others to committ the lyke in all tyme therafter, and notwithstanding of any dilligence hitherto done yeitt the staple port is not dewly observed, as plainly appears by the sewerall letters from the states of Zelland and town of Campheir complaineing upon the delinquents, and the conventione being resolved to gaird against such complaints in tyme comeing, and for that end to employ some person weell aquainted with the affairs of the staple, and being fully informed by sewerals of ther number of the fittnes, activity, and dilligence of Mr Gilbert Stewart, Breaches against staple contract.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1701.

Breaches against staple contract.

merchant in Edinburgh, for putting the foresaids acts in full executione against the delinquents, and of his honesty and fidelity to make ane just and faithfull accompt of his intromissiones to be intrometted with be him by vertew of thir presents; therfor the generall conventione hes given and granted, lyckeas they be thir presents gives and grants full power and commission to the said Mr Gilbert Stewart to put all the acts of parliament, acts of the generall and particular conventiones of borrowes, and acts of exchequer made against breackers of the staple, in full executione against all such persones as hes transgressed or gone by the staple port since the first day of Jully j^{m} vij^{c} yeares, or shall transgress or breack the samen to the nixt generall conventione in July j^{m} vij^{c} and two yeares, the said Mr Gilbert Stewart being hereby obleidged as by the acceptatione he bindes and obleidges himself to doe all maner of dilligence in prosecuting the saids delinquents for the more punctwall observance of the staple port, and sicklyck that he give ane accompt of his said dilligence to the nixt generall convention, untill which tyme this his commission to containow and endure, he being hereby obleidged from tyme to tyme to receave such ordors and instructions anent his manadgement from the comity appointed to sitt after disolveing of the conventione for considering all affairs relaiteing to the staple as they shall think convenient, and be obleidged in the strickest maner to observe the samen and stand to the comities determinatione as to all complaints betuixt him and the contraveeners that are to be persewed by him; and in lyck maner the said Mr Gilbert Stewart is to have no fixed sallarie but what gratificatione the convention shall think fitt to allow, and that after he hes given in ane accompt of his dilligence, which gratificatione, with his wholl charges and expences that he shall happen to deburs anie maner of way in prosecuting the saids transgressors, is to be payable to him out of the first and readiest of what he shall happen by his said dilligence to recover allanerlie and noe otherwayes.

Comitie anent the staple.

15. The convention haveing considered the misives sent to them by the states of Zelland and magistrats of Campheir, containeing sewerall complaints against the lord conservator, with his answers to the same, and the necesity of the conservators residence at the staple port, who being called in represented that he could not stay in safety ther in respect ther is ane sentance for imprisoneing him and distrennyieing his goodes,

and that because he, in obedience to the royall borrowes ordors, refused to compear befor the houff at the Hague at the instance of Arnold Ryx who most unjustly persewed him ther, and sicklyck that he could not be safely ther because he hade (*blank*) Burgemaster Denhedt in Mr Gordons affairs; all which misives and ansuers made to the samen were all read in presence of the conventione, and finding it would tak up a long tyme if they should goe through the haill points therby represented, have thought fitt to appoynt, and heirby nominats and appoints [a committee to meet] with full power to them to wryte answers to the saides misives to the states of Zelland and towne of Campheir, bearing that thair is ane fitt persone nominat by the generall conventione to prosecute all such persones as hes been or shall happen to be guilty of breacking the staple port, and that without any delay; and sicklyck representing the conservators forsaid reasone for his none residence, and desireing the saids states of Zelland and magistrates of Campheir to send over to the said comity ther particular greivances against the said lord conservator and all other persones whom they judge guilty of conneiveing with the transgressors of the said staple, all which are to be considered by the said comitie, who are heirby impowered to determine the conservators residence at the staple port or not as they shall see cause, and to doe all and sundry things whatsomever relating to the staple port and persons concerned therein as they shall think fitt; and in respect of the burgh of Aberdeens great distance from Edinburgh and concern in the staple, the convention allowes the toun councill of the said burgh to send over ane other fitt traffique merchant with a valid commission from the magistrats and toun councill to sitt as a member of the comitie iff the said commissioner cannot come himself, but this not to be a leading caice or preparative in tyme comeing; and that the abuse done to John Gordon be particularlie mentioned in the states of Zelland and Campheirs lettres.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1701. Comitie anent the staple.

16. Appointed a committee "to visit the caice and conditione of the burgh of Bruntisland and of their peer and harbour and how the soume of £1100 Scots formerly allowed to them for reparatione of ther said peer was imployed." Bruntisland.

17. Appointed a committee "to visite the caice and conditione of the burgh of Kinghorn and of their peir, harbour, and common good." Kinghorn.

18. The convention "considering that the affairs betuixt them and Mr John Buchan, ther agent, being soe much involved and perplext through his present Agents accompts.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1701.

nescesary absence as that they cannot be exped in soe short a tyme as the royall borrowes can conveniently sitt to cognosce the samen," they appointed a committee to examine the accounts and to arrange for the management of affairs during the agent's retirement or absence.

Agents accompts.

Andrew Ross appointed to act as agent.

19. The convention considering that it will be necesar ane fitt person be named to manadge the royall borrows affaires dureing Mr John Buchan, ther agent, his retirement or absence, therfore the conventione nominats and appoints Andrew Ross, writer in Edinburgh, to officiat for the said Mr John Buchan, and agent all the royall borrowes affairs to the nixt generall conventione or dureing the lord provost of Edinburghs pleasour, and he to act by his lordships advyce and directione allanerllie.

Address to the king, staple port.

20. The convention appoints the address read befor them to be presented to his Majestie, and that the lord provost off Edinburgh call ane particular conventione at such tyme as his lordship shall think fitt, who are authorised and impowered by the generall conventione to nominat and appoynt commissioners ane or mae to be sent with the said address and to attend his Majestie for his gracious answer therto, as also the convention impowers the said particular conventione to appoint commissioners to goe to Campheir to setle and adjust the differences that have happened ther anent the staple port, either betuixt the lord conservator and towne of Campheir or any others relating to that matter; and as to both the address and staple port the forsaid particular conventione hes als ample power to act as the generall conventione could have done themselves in all points, and particularly to grant warrands for defraying the charges of such nominationes as shall be made of commissioners to the effect abovewritten, and all to be reported to the nixt generall conventione. It is allwayes declared that in caice the stats of Zelland and toun of Campheir shall rest satisfied with the letters to be sent them by the comity for the staple who are appointed to wryt to them anent the progres alreadie made towards thair satisfactione, then ther will be no need for sending commissionars concerning that affair. As also the said particular convention is heirby warranted to add any other clause anent trade to the said address as they shall sie cause or to alter the samen and send up the same in any other forme they shall think convenient.

Aberdeen, Bamff.

21, 22. Appointed committees to visit the burghs of Aberdeen and Bamff and to report as to their common good, trade, and public works.

23. Ordained the burgh of Campbeltoun's proportion of the tax roll to be twelve pence Scots till next general convention and to be applied for payment of 500 marks allowed Jedburgh. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1701. Campbletoune.

24. Remitted to the committee appointed to meet after the dissolving of this convention "the memoriall presented be Sir Thomas Moncreiff of that ilk and what is represented therin anent the £218 resting by the unfree traders." Sir Thomas Moncreiff.

25. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Nairn and report as to "ther comon good, trade, peir, harbour, and bridge;" and the magistrates of Rothesay to "send ane report signed be them upon oath of the condition of the said burgh to the nixt generall conventione." Nairne, Rothesay.

26. Appointed a petition by the burgh of Inverness for getting their proportion of the tax roll reduced to be a head of next general missive. Inverness.

27. Allowed to the burgh of Annan 400 marks Scots "toward the building of ane bridge over the water of Annan." Annan.

28. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Montrose and to report as to their common good, trade, and public works. Montrose.

29. The convention haveing taken under consideratione the 27 article of the misive anent the great trouble and paines taken by Æneas Macleod, lait generall clerk to the royall borrowes, in thair affairs, by compendizeing the wholl acts, statuts, and constitutiones of the generall and particular conventiones, and makeing ane abreviat of the said compend and recording the wholl reports of the particular burghs of this kingdome made by the visitors appointed for that effect, with ane index thairof, all produced in thair presence; which being considered by the conventione they accept thairof as good and acceptable services done and performed by the said Æneas Macleod to the royall borrowes, and have appointed the soume of eight hundreth pounds Scots to be payed to him by ther agent or his successores in office, since the present circumstances of the borrowes will not allow them to gratifie him as his services deserves, and appoynts ane hundreth marks to be payed to him for wryting the saids books. £800 to Mr Æneas M'Leod for compend of acts.

30. Appointed the agent to pay certain salaries and gratuities to servants and others. Salaries and gratuities.

31. Remitted to the consideration of next general convention the trouble taken by their clerks in attending parliament and several committees. Clerks.

32. Remitted to the consideration of next general convention "the contain-owing of the present plateforme or the alteratione therof." Plateforme.

33. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1702. Act of adjournment.

EDINBURGH. 8 January 1702.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Adam Brown, dean of gild, Robert Inglis, conveener; Perth, George Oliphant; Dundie, John Scrimsour; Aberdeen, John Allardes; Stirline, Mr Francis Neaper; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; Glasgow, John Anderson; Aire, Robert Mure; Hadingtowne, William M'Call; Dysart, Alexander Swintoun; Kirkcaldy, John Whyte; Montross, Robert Rennald; Coupar, Thomas Beathone; Dumfreise, Robert Johnstoune; Inverness, William Duff; Bruntjsland, James Midletowne; Inverkeithing, James Spittell; Kinghorn, Patrick Wallace; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Wigtoune, James Gulline; Pittinweem, James Cook; Dumfermling, Mr James Hamiltoun; Enster Wester, Sir Robert Enster; Selkirk, James Scot; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Coline Campble; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Aberbrothock, John Hutcheson; Elgine, James Donaldsone; Peebles, John Gibsone; Culross, Sir David Dalrymple; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Whythorn, David Stewart; Rothesay, Mr Dougall Stewart; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Northberwick, Mr Alexander Dumbar; Lauder, George Walker; Kilrennie, Captain Philip Enster; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Lochmaben, William Menzies; Galloway, David French; Dingwall, Mr James M'Kenzie; Kintoir, Alexander Forbes; Innerurie, Mr Robert Forbes; Inverbervie, Mr Alexander Arbuthnet; (twenty burghs *absent*).

8 January 1702.

Presos.
1. Sir Patrick Johnstone, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Revising comissions.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

Commissions approven.
3. Approved of all the commissions produced.

Alleadgiance and assurance.
4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

9 January 1702.

Generall comity.
5. Appointed a committee to "draw the draught of an address to be presented to his Majestie and for takeing under ther consideratione all other things that shall be remitted to them."

Address to his Majestie.
6. The conventione haveing heard and considered the draught of ane address to be presented to his Majestie, brought in by the comitie appoynted for that effect, they unanimously approve thereof and ordains the samen to be recorded, the tenor whereof followes:—To the Kings most excellent Majestie, the humble address of the generall conventione

of the royall borrows of Scotland, being the third state of the kingdome. Great Sir,—Albeit that most of your royall borrows have alreadie upon this occatione, with the generality of your other good subjects, made ther sewerall addresses of loyaltie and deutie to your Majestie, yeit wee have longed with some impatience for this opportunitie to give this united testimony and assurrance of our sincere affection and zeal for your Majesties person and government according to our bound deuty. It was the state of your royall borrowes that in the late unhappie reigne did suffer the first and greatest attacks of arbitrarie government, whereby for the more easie introduceing of popery and slaverie our rights and liberties were in a maner subverted. What thanks then can wee render to Almightie God and to your Majestie, as his choisen instrument, for that great deliverance wrought for us by your Majestie from such ane eminent ruine. Nor can wee be less sensible of these great and maniefold blessings of peace, truth, libertie, and righteousness that your Majestie hath ever since procured and maintained for us, with all the labour and hazards yow have undergone in your oune royall persone in a long and heavie warr, whill at the same tyme wee enjoyed in all tranquility these most desireable fruits of your Majesties most auspicious and rightfull reigne over us. These are the obligations that we stand under to your Majestie, and which most perpetuallie engadge us to all the loyalty, fidelity, gratitude, and affection possiblie wee can expres, and more especiallie to resent and detest with the greatest abhorrance the arrogant injurie offered by the French King to your Majestie, and all your kingdoms, in owneing the pretendit Prince of Wales as king of this and your Majesties other dominions, contrair to your Majesties undoubted right and title soe righteously and eminently established and owned both by God and man. And therfor wee doe in all sinceritie, and with all that faithfulnes whereof wee are capable, assure your Majestie that wee will adhere to, mantain, and defend your Majesties royall person and most rightfull government as our only undoubted lord and soveraigne against the said pretendit Prince of Wales and all your Majesties other enemies to the outmost of our power, earnestlie beseeching almightie God long to perserve and ever to prosper your Majesties persone and government for the defence of the true protestant religione, the maintaineing the peace of Europe, and the confort and happiness of all your Majesties dominions. May it please your Majestie, [etc.] Signed by all the members of the conventione.

EDINBURGH. 9 January 1702.

Address to his Majestie.

EDINBURGH. 9 January 1702.

Letters to the secretaries of state.

7. The conventione haveing heard and considered the draughts of two letters to be sent to the secretaries of state, brought in by the comity appointed to draw the same, they approve of the saides draughts and ordains the samen to be recorded, whereof the tenor followes:—My Lord, Wee being mett in a conventione of royall borrowes thought it our deutie, in the first place, to take to our consideratione the great obligationes wee owe to his Majestie for haveing (under God) secured to us our religion, lives, liberties, and properties from the invasiones threatened against them, and the great abhorrance wee have to the proceedinges of the French King in owneing the pretendit Prince of Wales as king of this nationе and his Majesties other dominiones, and therfor esteemed our selves obleidged to give evidence thereof by ane humble and deutifull address to the King, and wee earnestly intreat your lordship will be pleased in our name to deliver the same to his Majestie, wee aknowledgeing our selves extreamly bound to your lordship for the containowed cair ye are pleased to take in all our concernes, and your cair in this will add more obligationes upon, my lord, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* PATT. JOHNSTOUN.

My lord.—Wee have according to our deuty in this present juncture sent ane humble address to his Majestie to the Earle of Seafeild, lord secretarie in waiting for the tyme, and seeing wee have hade frequent experience of your lordships favours to us, wee doe now humbly intreat your lordship would be pleased to be present at the deliverie of our said address (whereof wee send your lordship a double inclosed) whereby ye will verie much obleidge, my lord, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* PATT. JOHNSTOUN.

12 January 1702.

Disbursements to be paid by burghs.

8. The convention appointed the several burghs to pay to Mr James Stewart, general clerk, their proportions of £15,000 Scots to be applied for payment of all the precepts drawn by the general convention in July 1700, extending to £10,686, and the sum of £218, 14s. 3d. sterling, with £16 of interest thereon, due to Sir Thomas Moncreiff, on his giving a discharge, "with ane assignation from Sir Andrew Miretowne of Gogar to the equivalent sowme resting to him by the burghs of barronie and regalities." Several burghs having refused to pay their proportions, as arrestments had been used in their hands by Mr John Buchan's creditors, the convention agreed to relieve these burghs of any diligence against them at the instance of the creditors.

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1702.

15 January 1702.

Provosts of Perth and Aberdeen commissioners to Campheir.

9. The generall convention of the royall borrowes, takeing to ther serious consideratione the letters sent to them by his Majesties states off Zealand and towne of Campheir, exhibiteing sewerall complaintes concerneing the non observance of the staple port, and that the punctwall observance thereof will be of great import and concerne to the state of borrows and haill trade of the natione, and for that effect the conventione, judgeing it necessary and expedient some discreit and weell qualified persones be sent over to Campheir as their commissioners to setle and adjust all the differences that hes happened in relation to the breach of the said staple port since the same was established at Campheir and for preventing the lycke in tyme comeing, and the generall convention being fully perswaded of the integrity, activitie, and other qualificationes of George Oliphant, present provost of Perth, and John Allardes, present provost of Aberdeen, therffore they have given and granted, lyckeas by thir presents gives and grants to the saides George Oliphant and John Allardes full power and commissione, expres bidding, mandament and charge, for us and in our names, to meet, treat, conclude, and determine with the states of Zealand and magistrats of Campheir in the expres tearmes of the last established staple contract, and consert such measours with them as will prove effectwall for removeing of all bypast differences and preventing the grounds of such complaints for the future, to the effect all mistaks betuixt the saides magistrats of Campheir and the royall borrowes may be removed and ane intire and firme freindship and wnderstanding containowed betuixt them; firme and stable holding and for to hold what shall be transacted and aggreed upon towards the dew observance of the said staple port and the honour and intrest of the royall burrowes, provideing the same be conforme to the contract past betuixt the royall borrowes and the magistrates of Campheir in all poyntes.

Act anent the staple port and Gilbert Stewart.

10. The convention, considering the manie complaints made to them against the not dew observance of the staple contract, and the sewerall breaches thereof by the merchants and masters of shipes carrieing ther staple goodes by the staple port of Campheir, for remead therof the convention doe ratifie ther act of the dait the [10] day of Febwarie j^{m} vj^{c} and nintie nyne yeires, made anent the punctwall observeing of the said

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1702.

Act anent the staple port and Gilbert Stewart.

contract in all poynts, and finding the conservators residence at Campheir to be necesar for preserveing the privieledges of the royall borrowes, doe therfor appoint his residence to be at the said staple port of Campheir, conforme to his signed instructiones given to him by the royall borrowes, and that heirafter he shall not exact any dewes for staple goodes that comes to any other port within the provinces except the staple port of Campheire (coalls only excepted), and appoints him and his deputs to give punctwall informatione of all merchants or masters of ships that cary staple goodes by the staple port to Mr Gilbert Stewart, as the person whom the royall borrowes hes impowered to prosecut the transgressores of the said staple contract, or to any other person that shall be appointed for that end, but prejudice to the conservator to persew for his conservator dewes as accords of the law; and the convention recommendes to the managers of the tack of his Majesties customes, ther collectors and servants, to take bonds from the masters of ships in the tearmes of the acts of his Majesties privie councill, obleidgeing them to unload ther goodes at the said staple port of Campheir and to returne certificats thereof, and in caice they doe not returne the same within the tyme prescrived in the saids acts to cause delyver ther bonds to the said Mr Gilbert Stewart or to any other persone that shall be appointed to prosecut the transgressors of the said staple porte; and to the effect the transgressors of the said contract and acts of privie councill may be dewly prosecut and punished conforme thereunto, they appoynt Mr John Buchan to delyver up to the said Mr Gilbert Stewart what decreits and dilligences followeing thereupon he hes against any of the saids transgressores preceeding the moneth of Jully j^{m} vij^{c}, and ordains the said master Gilbert Stewart to put the saides decreets and dilligences to punctwall executione and to prosecut these who have transgressed the said staple port since the said moneth of Jully j^{m} vij^{c} yeires and in tyme comeing, and with power to the said Mr Gilbert Stewart to uplift the saids fynes and grant discharge therefor.

Address to his Majestie.

11. The conventione haveing heard and considered the draughts of three sewerall letters to be sent to his Majestie, states of Zealand and towne of Campheir, brought in by the comity appointed for that effect, they approve of the samen, and ordains the saides letters to be recorded, whereof the tenor followes: May it please your Majestie,—Wee the representatives of your royall borrowes mett in a generall convention have receaved

your royall letter of the sixth instant touching the complaints made by the states of Zealand and magistrats of the towne of Campheir of the violation of the staple contract, and can assure your Majestie since the same was entered unto wee have not been negligent to have it dewly observed as the prosecutiones made by our agent from tyme to tyme of sewerall transgressors will testifie; but in obedience to your Majesties letter, and for your Majesties full satisfactione in this affair, wee have again [taken] the wholl to our consideratione, and to cutt of all complaints for the futur, have in the first place ratified and revived all former acts for the exact and strict observance of the staple port, and have choisen two of our own number to goe with the conservator to Zealand betuixt and the first of March, and ther to adjust with the magistrats of Campheir and states of Zealand all matters for remedie and redress of complaints, and to concert the strictest methods for the observance of the staple port in tyme comeing. Wee have now lyckwayes made chois of and fully impowered a sufficient person and weell aquainted with the affaires of the staple for prosecuting all transgressors and particularly those sett down in the list sent from Campheir, and wee have farder resolved that the conservator shall reside for heirafter at Campheir, but because he hes not at present personall safety to reside there, by reason of ane sentance of the houff of Holland standing against him, at the instance of one master Ryx, [whereof we] have formerly complained as contrairie to our privieledges, wee doe in all humilitie beseech your Majestie to interpose effectwally in this affair with the states of Zealand that this sentance may be taken of soe as he may reside ther with safety and freedome. These things wee hope will be satisfieing to your Majestie, and both in these and all thinges els wee shall constantly endeavour to aquyte ourselves in all deutie and loyalty as becomes, great Sir, [etc.] Signed in presence and by warrant of the conventione by PATT. JOHNSTOUN.

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1702.

Address to his Majestie.

Noble and mighty Lords,—Wee desired the lord provost of Edinburgh to give yow the reasones why your letter of the 18th October last could not be soe soon taken under consideratione as wee would have inclyned, but now upon the opening of this present convention wee have gone through the bussines of the staple and not only provided soe far as wee could imagine for the strict observance thereof in tyme comeing, by our enjoyne-

Letter to the State of Zealand.

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1702.

Letter to the Stats of Zealand.

ing all dilligence to the outmost severeity against the by past transgressores and such as shall contraveen in tyme comeing, and by reviveing and ratiefieing all former laws made for the dew observance of the staple, and particularly by ordoring the lord conservator to reside at the staple port, but alsoe least anie thing necessarie to adjust all differences might have been omitted wee have in complyance with your lordships letter comissionate two of our number, to witt, the provosts of Perth and Aberdeen, to goe to Campheir to attend your lordships in ordor to ane finall setlement of all that may tend to the advantadge of the staple, and by doeing quherof wee hope it will appear that wee have exerted all our power to doe your lordships and the magistrats of Campheir justice. Wee are heartily satisfied that thair is no differrence nor mistake betuixt your lordships and the lord conservator and shall be weell pleased that ane good correspondence be allwayes keeped up betuixt yow. Wee shall not trouble yow with any returne to these expostulations yow make anent our slacknes in tymes bygone, seeing wee have reason to beleive that what wee have now done will make appologie to your satisfactione, and therfore shall only add that, as wee doe heartily wish the good success and prosperitie of all the staple and resolve firmly to contribut our best endeavours for that end, soe wee tender our most hearty respects and deuty to your lordships and shall vpon all occationes evidence that wee are, noble and mighty lords, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* PATT. JOHNSTOUN.

Letter to the Town of Campheir.

Right honourable,—Wee desired the lord provost of Edinburgh to give yow the reason why your letter of the 18th October last could not soe soon be taken under consideratione as wee would have inclined. Wee have since hade the honour to receave exhibiteing to us sewerall complaints of the breach of the staple contract and desireing that effectwall methods may be taken for remead thereof in the future, and that for this end commissioners may be sent over fully instructed by us to treat with your honors in ordor to take away all grounds of complaints. Wee have allwayes been and still are desirous that the said contract be inviolably observed, and to remove as much as is in our power all obstructiones therof, wee have at present in complyance with your honours desire made such inquirie into the affair as is possible at this distance and sent over two of our number, viz., the provosts of Perth and Aberdeen, with full

instructiones to make a farder tryall and to treat with your honours and use ther outmost endeavours to adjust all differences. They are persons of such ability and integrity that wee doubt not but they will give all possible satisfactione as to the particulars complained of or what may be thought needfull on the place. The lord conservator is appointed to goe alongst with them and to reside at the staple port in tyme comeing. Wee have also revived former acts against the non observers of the staple and laid down effectwall methods for puting the laws against contraveeners formerly and in tyme comeing in full and vigorous execution. These, wee hope, shall be successful means to remove all the present greivances anent the staple, and wee shall be verie glad to doe anything that may be judged farder needfull to give your honours inteir satisfactione, it being our cordiall desire to maintain that good understanding hes allwayes been betuixt us. Wee are, right honourable, [etc.] Signed by warrant, PATT. JOHNSTOUN.

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1702

Letter to the Town of Campheir.

12. The conventione haveing heard and considered the instructiones to be given to George Oliphant, provost of Perth, and John Allardes, ther comissioners to Campheir for setleing and adjusting all differrences in relatione to the staple port, which being publictly read are approven and ordained to be recorded, quherof the tenor followes—

Instructions to the commissioners that went to Campheir.

(1mo) That the saides commissionars carie with them ane abstract of all the acts of the royall borrowes collected be Mr Æneas Macleod and extracts of such acts as they call for from the clerks of the royall borrowes, with extracts of the Kings letter and the letters from the states of Zealand and town of Campheir to the royall borrowes, in relatione to the staple port, with ane extract of the conservators comissione and instructiones.

(2do) That the conservator, his deputs, collectors, and other members of his court, may exhibit ther bookes, peapers and accompts, to the saides commissioners when called for.

(3^{tio}) That the saids commissionars doe examine impartially the groundes of the towne of Campheires repeated complaints, mentioned in ther letters to the royall borrowes, and also to examine the occatione of the breach of the staple contract as they shall be offered to them by the towne of Campheir, the conservator, factors, merchants and others; and further to enquire unto the complaints to be given in to them by the conservators, factors, merchants, skippers, or others, against any persone sub-

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1702.

ject to the Scots jurisdictione, and to the effect forsaid to call for wryts, books, instructiones and discharges, and to lead probatione.

Instructions to the commissioners that went to Campheir.

(4to) And that they inform themselves of the Scots minister, church, session, and others at Campheir, the state and conditione of ther poor, and how thair monie is laid out and imployed, and to give directiones to the consistorie that the same may be secured to the best advantage upon a sure found and particularly with Mr Ryx's intrometting with the exercise of Mr Snip, lait minister.

(5to) That they examine all the stepts of that affair betuixt the conservator and Arnold Ryx and to endeavour ane accomodatione.

(6to) That they concurr with the magistrats of Campheir for regulateing the fees and fraughts of the mettsters, inland skippers, slypers, workmen and pilots.

(7mo) That the saids commissioners shall obleidge the magistrats of Campheir to procure from the stats of Zealand sufficient convoyes at least twyce a year in tyme of warr, conform to the staple contract.

(8°) That they endeavour to accommodat that affair betuixt the magistrats of Campheir and John Gordon anent his house.

(9°) That they cause put in executione the rules and ordors relateing to the Scots house, and that they give suitable instructiones to John Gordon, master of the same, he keeping his house sufficiently furnished.

(10°) And that they, upon a clear probatione, give furth ther sentance in all matters to be brought befor them, and that where they are not cleir to determine or reconcile the pairties they report to the nixt generall conventione, and to endeavour that non of thair privieledges be infringed, provideing no burden be brought on the royall borrowes.

(11°) That they have power to name ther clerk and other servants and that they be enjoyned to keep exact records of all ther proceedings.

(12°) And that they consult and conclude measours with the magistrats of Campheir for the religious observance of the staple contract in tyme comeing as to what is incumbent to be done by either pairtie to others.

Commissioners expenses, £100.

13. Ordained the agent to pay to the provosts of Perth and Aberdeen £50 sterling each for defraying their charges and expenses to Campheir.

Act in favours of Elgine.

14. The convention haveing considered the petition given in by the burgh of Elgine, representing that they hade found out a verie convenient

EDINBURGH. 15 January 1702.

place for building of ane harbour in the moueth of Lossie, upon their own property, which will be of great use not only to the said burgh bot also to the natione, and the lordes of his Majesties privie councill upon the application made to them ordered a voluntar contributione to be collected through the haill paroch churches of the kingdome upon such convenient day or dayes as they should sie convenient, creaveand therfor that they would seriously recomend to the haill royall borrowes within the kingdom to be liberall in thair contributione for promoteing soe good and advantagious a work, as the petitione beares; whilk being considered by the conventione they grant the desire therof and heirby seriously recomends to the haill respective royall borrowes to give ther outmost assistance and concurrance to the said collectione to be collected by any that shall be appointed for that effect, and to be liberall in thair contributione, conforme to the said act of his Majesties privie councill in all points.

Act in favours of Elgine.

15. Appointed a committee "to enquire into the state of the tack of the customes and forraigne excyse, taken by warrant of the convention held at Edinburgh in November j^m^ vj^c^ nynty seaven, and call the manadgers befor them and make report again the nixt generall convention."

Tack of customs.

16 January 1702.

16. Having again considered the tack of the customs and foreign excise, the convention approved of the remit in the preceding act and added other three burghs to the committee. Several burghs thereupon "declaired their disasent and that they could not signe the bookes, seeing that would be ane homologatione of the said vote," and removed, stating "they were to give in to the convention nixt day ther reasones of the dissent in wryt."

Comity anent the tack of the customes.

17. Appointed the several burghs to send their commissioners to next general convention fully instructed in all that concerns the tack of customs and excise.

Anent tack of customs.

19. Appointed a committee "to wait upon his Majesties advocat in ordor to draw ane representatione to be given in to the lords of his Majesties privie councill" in relation to a representation by the dean of guild of Edinburgh "anent coall, salt, French wyne, brandie, and the other particulars therin mentioned."

Comity to wait on his Majesties advocat.

20. The convention appoynts the severall burghs to put the lawes

Laws to be put to execution anent plaiding, etc.

EDINBURGH. 16 January 1702.

and acts of parliament to vigorous executione within thair respective jurisdiction anent the right makeing of plaiden, fingrams and stockins, and the manufactor of linnen, and to report ther dilligence therin to the nixt generall conventione, and to bring to the said convention what overtours may be thought needfull for regulateing the samen, as also the laws and acts of parliament anent the exportation of wooll and importatione of woollen manufactors and the right sorting of wooll and dressing of leather, all quhich to be a head of the nixt generall misive, and that [the] agent represent the same in the memorial to be given in to the privie councill.

Laws to be put to execution anent plaiding, etc.

21. Appointed the committee anent the tack of customs to meet on Thursday next at three o'clock.

EDINBURGH. 22 January 1702.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *appointed by the 15th and 16th acts of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

22 January 1702.

Soderunt. Edinburgh, Adame Broun, dean of gild, Robert Inglis, convener; Perth, George Oliphant; Aberdeen, John Allardes; Dysart, Alexander Swintoune; Kirkcaldie, James Whyte; Invernese, William Duff; Innerkeithing, James Spitell; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Innerurie, Mr Robert Forbes; Innerbervie, Mr Alexander Arbuthnot.

Preses. 1. Sir Patrick Johnstoune, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Subcomitie appointed. 2. The comity conforme to the power granted to them by the 15, 16 and 21 acts of the last generall conventione holden at Edinburgh upon the eight day of January instant, haveing mett and taken to ther consideratione the wholl affair to them comitted, and also considering that severall members of the said comity cannot convenientlie attend, and lyckwayes that the bookes relateing to the manadgement of the tack of the customes and forraigne excyse, taken for the behoove of the royall borrowes in the year j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty seaven yeares, can be more conveniently inspected by ane subcomitty, they therfor nominat and appoint Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Dyssart, Kirkcaldie, Invernese, Inverkeithing, Dumfermling, Forras, Innerury, and Inverbervie, whereof fyve to be a quorum, Edinburgh being allwayes one, as a subcomity to take inspec-

tione of thair books and state the articles thairof, by way of charge and discharge, and report ther opinion thairof to the comitie; and appoints the subcomitie to meet upon Munday the second of February nixt at fyve acloack in the afternoon, and that this be intimat to the managers of the said tack by the clerk that they may attend the said subcomity with thair wholl bookes of the first years managdement, and that it be also intimat to them to haue the rest of their bookes in readines to be produced when the said subcomity shall think fitt to call for them, and grants full power to the said subcomity to adjourn themselves from tyme to tyme as they shall sie cause. EDINBURGH. 22 January 1702. Subcomitie appointed.

2 February 1702.

Edinburgh, Adam Broun, dean of gild, Robert Inglis, convener; Dumfermling, Mr James Hamiltoun; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Innerury, Mr Robert Forbes; Inverbervie, Mr Alexander Arbuthnot. Sederunt of the subcomitie.

The subcomity, in regaird the managers of the customes hes not compeired, ordains ther officer to ceit them to compeir befor the grand comity on Munday the sexteen day of February instant at fyve acloack at night. Managers to be ceited.

16 February 1702.

Edinburgh, Adam Broun, dean of gild, Robert Inglis, conveener; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; Hadingtowne, William M'Call; Dyssart, Alexander Swintone; Kirkcaldie, John Whyte; Invernese, William Duff; Innerkeithing, James Spittell; Dumfermling, Mr James Hamiltoun; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Innerury, Mr Robert Forbes; Inverbervie, Mr Alexander Arbuthnot. Sederunt of the comitie.

1. The comity elects the dean of gild of Edinburgh to be ther preses. Preses.

2. The comity haveing considered the comuneing in my lord advocats lodgeing, with Sir James Smolet and Mr William Johnstoun, two of the managers of the customes, in presence of my lord advocat, and that my lord advocat creaved a delay to the morrow morneing at nyne acloack in ordor to bring matters to ane amicable adjustment, therfor the comity recomends to the subcomity formerly named, to whom Lithgow and Hadingtown is added, fyve being allwayes a quorum, that in case the managers doe appear befor them and creave a tyme to have thair Act appointing comity to meet in my lord advocats.

EDINBURGH. 16 February 1702.

books in readieness, in ordor to be exhibited, and that they will accordingly exhibit the same to be inspected conforme to the power granted by the generall conventione, that they may allow them any day in May nixt to come, and in case the managers does not soe the subcomity are heirby ordered to proceed in all dilligence and that with all expeditione.

Act appointing comity to meet in my lord advocats.

17 February 1702.

Sederunt of the comity.

[Same as last meeting.

Preses.

1. The comity elects the dean of gild of Edinburgh to be ther preses.

Letters of horneing against managers.

2. The comity considering that non of the managers of the customes have appeared in ordor either to exhibit thair bookes or to creave a tyme for doeing therof, notwithstanding of a ceitation given to them for that end, and they being frequently called at the door as use is, therfor the comity, conform to the power lodged in them, and in ordor to prosecute the act of the generall convention, doe decern and ordain Sir James Smolet of Bonhill, Sir Archibald Mure of Thornetowne, William Menzies, lait baillie of Edinburgh, and Mr William Johnstoune, to produce and exhibit befor them all bookes relateing to the management of the tack of the customes and forraigne excyse, taken by the royall borrowes in anno 1697, for the first thrie years of the said tack, and ordains letters of horneing to be directed heiron conform to the acts of parliament and in name and at the instance of Andrew Ross, writer in Edinburgh, their agent.

Petition to be given to lords of session.

3. The comity ordains Forras, Dumfermling, Innerurie and Inverbervie, to draw ane bill in name of the comity to the lords of sessione representing the haill matter and stepts of procedour, with the managers contumacie, and to creave that in caice any bill of suspensione shall be presented befor any of thair number by the saids managers or any of them they would be pleased to recomend to the said lord to allow the said comity or ther subcomity the favour to sie and ansuer the same.

Managers to be instrumented for not producing books.

4. The comity ordains the said Andrew Ross in name of the royall borrowes to requyre the saids managers to exhibit and produce the forsaides books for the first thrie years of ther management befor them or their subcomity, and to protest for all coast, skaith, and damnadge that

shall aryse to the royall borrowes or any of them in and through ther contumacie and contempt, and that under form of instrument. EDINBURGH. 17 February 1702.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *anent the Staple Port, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 7 April 1702.

7 April 1702.

Edinburgh, Adam Brown, dean of gild, Robert Inglis, convener; Perth, George Oliphant; Aberdeen, John Allardes; Dumfermling, Mr James Hamilton; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smollet; Rothesay, Dougall Stewart; Lochmaben, William Menzies. Sederunt.

1. The comity elects the lord provost of Edinburgh to be ther preses. Preses.

2. The comity appointed for the bussines of the staple port being desired by the provosts of Pearth and Aberdeen, the two commissioners appoynted to goe to Camphere, to meit and give thair opinion anent the saids commissioners ther prosecuting the said comission, it is the unanimouse opinion of the comitie that the saids commissionars should proceed on ther voyadge as they were appointed by the conventione and to use ther outmost endeavours to accomodat these affaires of the staple to the best advantage; as also the comity did call for Gilbert Stewart and desired him to advance the commissioners the sowme of ane hundreth pownds sterline, conforme to the conventions act, and he haveing told the comity that he hade receaved non of these effects out of which the forsaid sowme was appointed to be payed, albeit he hade used dilligence for that end, which being considered by the comity it is thair opinion that seeing the commissionars are come up this length with a designe to goe forward, and that it might be verie dishonourable als weell as prejudiciall to the royall borrowes iff ther voyadge should be now retarded, therfor it is the opinion of the wholl comity that the said Gilbert Stewart should advance to the commissionars the forsaid sowme of ane hundreth pound, sterline, quherof the one half therof in hand and the other half within ten dayes after ther arriveall at Campheir; and it is further the unanimouse opinion of the said comity that in caice the said hundreth pownds, sterline, cannot be raised by the said Gilbert Stewart out of the fonds Commissioners to Campheir.

EDINBURGH. 7 April 1702.

intrusted to him, then and in that caice that the royall borrowes at ther nixt generall convention in Jully should reimburse him of the said sowme with the intrest thereof untill he be payed.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1702.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Adam Brown, dean of gild, Robert Inglis, conveener; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Dundie, John Scrimsour; Aberdeen, John Ross; Stirline, Mr Francis Neaper; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, Hugh Montgomerie; Glasgow, Hugh Montgomrie; Air, John Mure; Hadingtoun, William M'Call; Dyssart, Alexander Swintown; Kirkcaldie, John Whyte; Montrose, Robert Renold; Coupar, William Greig; Enster Easter, Captain Philp Enster; Dumfreise, Robert Johnstoun; Invernese, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, Alexander Gedd; Innerkeithing, James Spittell; Kinghorn, William Smeiton; Breichen, John Dogg; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, Walter Scot; Kirkcudbright, James Gordon; Wigetowne, William Coultran; Pittenweem, William Bell; Selkirk, Robert Scot; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Coline Campble; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Archibald Simpsone; Arbroth, John Hutchesone; Elgine, James Stewart; Peebles, Archibald Sheill; Craill, William Craufurd; Culross, Sir David Dalrymple; Tayne, Æneas Macleod; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Forfar, Charles Dicksone; Nairn, John Rose; Forras, Mr William Brodie; Rutherglen, John Scot; Kilrennie, Thomas Peacock; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Sanquhair, James Huntar; Dingwall, Keneth Bayne; Queensferrie, James Dalgleish; Fortrose, Hugh Baillie; Kintoir, James Bruice; Innerurie, Mr Robert Forbes; Week, William Murray; Stanraer, Sir Patrick Murray; (twelve burghs *absent.*)

7 July 1702.

Preses. Members qualified. Committee.

1. Sir Patrick Johnstoun, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.
2. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.
3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

8 July 1702.

Commissions approven.

4. Approved of the commissions, except those of six burghs, "which the convention rejects in respect they are contrair to the plateform, non of the comissioners being residenters and some of them not being merchants traffecquers within the burghs they represented."

5. Appointed a committee to consider the missive and all other things remitted to them.

9 July 1702.

6. The conventione haveing considered the comissions sent by the burghs off Dumfermling, Enster Wester, and Lauder, and that the former comissiones granted by the saids burghs was rejected as being contrair to the plateform, therfor the convention lyckwayes reject the forsaids second commissiones, and enacts statuts and ordains that in all tyme comeing no burgh shall have liberty to send up a second comission when ther first commission to the same conventione is rejected. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1702. Sewerall commissions rejected.

7. The conventione haveing considered the twenty eight article of the misive anent the tack of the customes and forraign excyse, with the acts and ordinances made theranent in January last, doe find that the convention who made the samen was only called *pro re nata* and circumscryved to the particulars contained in the misive by which they were called, that they hade no power nor warrant to treat or conclude upon the affairs of the said tack of the customes, nor to make any acts or pronounce any decreits or sentences therin, therfor the convention decernes and declairs the haill procedour of the said conventione in the forsaids affairs of the tack void and null, with all that hes followed or may follow therupon; and farder that in tyme comeing no convention that shall be called *pro re nata* shall have power to treat upon, alter, or innovat what hes been formerly determined in the anwall conventione of Jully, nor yeit to medle in any other bussines except such as are comitted to them by the misive, except it be upon such emergencies that may fall out the tyme of ther meeting, wherein the honour, privieledge, or intrest of the royall borrowes may be imediatly concerned; and whatever shall be done in the saides conventiones soe to be called shall be allwayes subject and lyable to the recognizance of the succeeding anwall conventione of Jully. Act anent tack of the customs and circumscryveing everie particular convention.

Befor the said act was approven, Captain Philp Enster, comissioner for Enster Easter, protested against the managers ther voteing and against the exclusione of sewerall members, but gave not in the writtin protest but promised to give it upon Monday, being the nixt sederunt. As also the commissioners for Edinburgh, Perth, Hadingtoune, Dyssart and Coupar protested in name of their burghs that the managers, collectors, surveyers and others that hade a dependance on the Protest against the preceding act.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1702.

Protest against the preceding act.

mannadgers should not have a vote in this affair, and that whatever were carried should not be prejudiciall to their burghs their seeking redress at any judicatorie they thought fitt; and declaired they would give it in nixt sederunt. Thereafter the said [act] being put to the vote, the commissioners for Annan and Montrose protested that this was caried without a contradictorie vote and thairupon took instruments. Follows the protestatione tacken by the said Captain Philp Enster and his adherents: —I, the commissioner for Enster Easter, doe in our name and in name of such other burghes present or absent as shall adhere to us, protest, that in regaird the tack of the forraigne customes and excyse hes been sett to and taken in name of the borrowes, and that the comon good of the wholl burghs of this natione [becomes] lyable to his Majestie for payment of the tack deuty therof, and seeing that the manadgement was comitted by the borrowes to certain of our number who have never yeit compted therfor, but have expresly declined to exhibit ther bookes of manadgement to the royall borrowes to be inspected by them that therby ther loss or profeit might appear, whereupon it was most justly decerned and ordained by the last convention or meeting of borrowes, holden att Edinburgh in the moneth of January last by past, that they should exhibit and produce thair haill books in relatione to the saides customes befor the comitty then appointed by them, and allbeit they were frequently desired by the said comity soe to doe, yeit they most unjustly declined the same, soe that the comity was necesitat to decern against them in the said matter, and albeit the said comity was legall and the wholl steps of ther procedour warrantable, and which ought to be expresly approven of in this present convention, yeit the authoritie of the said convention and comity therof beginns now to be contraverted and impugned; therfor wee, and all our adherents and such as shall after adheire to us, albeit absent for the tyme, heirby decline all manadgers, collectors, surveyors, and all others imployed by them or haveing dependance upon them in the said matter, from sitting, treating, argueing or voteing in this affair of the customes, as being pairties intrested and consequently uncapable to judge theranent; and in respect the affairs of the customes hes alreadie been tabled befor the last conventione and comitted and sentance pronounced by the comity therupon, wee for ourselves and all those adhereing as said is, protest that in caice this present

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1702.

Protest against the preceding act.

conventione proceed any further in this matter then to approve of the comities report presently in the clerks hands, that it shall be but prejudice of our own burghs which wee represent and of all the burghs presently adhereing or that shall afterwards adhere to us their intrests and rights in the forsaid tack of the forraigne customes and excyse, and but prejudice to us and our adherents to quarrell and impugne any further procedour of this present conventione, consisting of soe great ane number of manadgers and other dependants, and to prosecute and persew our respective rights and intrests befor any judges or judicatories within this kingdome; and lyckwayes in regard ther hes been soe many representatives of the burghs royall debarred from sitting here and representing ther saides burghs, which in it self renders this ane restricted and limited conventione, and that all judges are obleidged by the law and practique of the kingdome to give their oath *de fideli administratione* in their respective stationes, and that it hes been refused, in ther respective, by the members of the committie in this conventione to whom the alteration and cast of the ten pound on the stent roll was comitted to give their said oath *de fideli administratione;* therfor wee and all that adheres or shall adhere unto us as saidis, doe protest against any alteratione of the said stent roll by this present conventione as not haveing ane full, free, and legall warrand to doe the samen, and heirby protests for all coast, skaith, and damnadge wee may be put to in obtaineing redress in any of the premissis, whereupon wee take instruments. To which protestatione the borrowes underwrittin adhered and desired their adherance to be recorded in manner underwrittin. *Sic subscribitur:* Ph. Anstruther for Anstruther Easter. Jo. Dounan, assessor for Edinburgh, in absence of my lord dean gild, principall, adheres to the forsaid protestation in soe far as concernes the tack of the customes. Robert Inglis, for Edinburgh, adheres in the same termes. A. Robertson, for Perth, adheres to the wholl. Jo. Scrimsour, for Dundy, adheres to the wholl. Will M'Call, for Hadingtowne, adheres to the wholl. Al. Swyntoune, for Dyssart, adheres to the wholl. Jo. Whyt, for Kirkcaldie, adheres to the wholl. William Greig, for Coupar, adheres to the wholl. William Bell, for Pittenweem, adheres to the wholl. William Murray, for Week, adheres to the wholl. James Spittell, for Innerkeithing, adheres to the wholl.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1702.

Ansuers to the forgoeing protest.

To the which protestatione, its answered, the forsaid convention haveing fully considered the same, they find the forsaid protest groundless, illegall and undeutiful, for the reasones followeing:—(1mo) Because they decline all manadgers, collectors, surveyors, &c., as being pairties, quhilk can nowayes be allowed, in regaird the forsaid tack as they aknowledge was taken in name of the borrowes and the manadgement comitted to a considerable comittie of ther number, wherof the meaneing and import could never be that these intrusted in that comity should be therby excluded from all farder treating or voteing in that affair and made pairties subject to a censour and controll of the remaineing borrowes who according to the taxt roll might have a far less intrest in the wholl tack; but farder it might happen if the forsaids manadgers and all others depending on them in the said matter were to be declined and excluded from farder treating and voteing therein, that a verie smal remaineing pairt of the royall burghs might become judges and controlers of the wholl; but the truth is, the royall borrowes became pairtners in this tack and are to be regulat be the rules of ordinarie societies, but soe it is that members haveing particular offices in any ordinar societie were never theirby thought to be excluded from their vote, and if the convention shall be farder understood to be a court haveing its dew authoritie, it was never heard that a comity appointed by the same court for the better manadgement of its concernes was excluded from haveing a vote even upon their own manadgement and the report theirof. (2do) The last convention in January was but a convention *pro re nata*, and when ever a convention *pro re nata* doth medle in anie incident it is without contraversie and the constant practice of the royall borrowes that all its medleings and actings are subject to be ratified and controlled by the solemn anwall convention in Jully, and that less they be therin ratified they have not their compleit authoritie and force. (3tio) Its unheard off that the convention, haveing undoubted power to approve or disapprove what past in a former extraordinarie conventione or ther comittie, should be protested against in case they proceed any farder then to approve, which is plainly to take away the power and liberty of the convention. (4to) For the protesters protesting that this conventiones proceedings be but prejudice to ther respective burghs, it is beleived to be beyond ther comission and contrairie to that respect and defference that particular

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1702.

burghs owe and have ever payed to the authoritie of the conventione. (5to) This convention haveing debarred none from sitting therein which are not expresly excluded by the rules and acts of the convention, often ratified in parliament and constantly observed by all conventiones if not *pro tempore* dispenced with, soe that this peaper doth verie groundlessly and undeutifully call this a limited conventione. (6to) Its altogether unheard of that a comitty appoynted by any meeting should be required and obleidged to take a new oath *de fideli*, since their first oath and deuty doth equallie obleidge them in comitties as in full meettings, and they are no otherwayes judges in comities then in ther full meetings, and the same oath bindes for both, soe that the alteratione of the taxt roll belonging undoubtedly by acts of parliament to the convention of borrowes they might verie justly and legally delegat the same to a comity of ther own number, and to require a new oath of that comity is both illegall and supperfluous and doth manifestly bear ane undue suspicion and reflection upon the persones named upon the comitie who are undoubtedly still under the force and obligatione of ther first oath. For these reasones, and others that may be added, the convention have judged and doe judge the forsaid protestation to be groundless, illegall, and undeutifull as said is, reserveing to the convention the farder censour of the protestouris as they shall see cause.

Ansuers to the forgoeing protest.

8. It being agreed "not to alter the taxt roll but the ten pound being the quota for the unfree trade," the convention, on the recommendation of a committee, proportioned the said ten pounds as follows:—to the burgh of Perth an addition of £2, Dundie £1 7s., Aberdeen 10s. 6d., Stirling 4s., Glasgow 16s., Hadingtoun 12s., Dysart 8s., Kirkcaldie £1, Montrose 8s., Coupar 7s., Enster Easter 3s., Invernese 6s. 8d., Bruntisland 4s., Inverkeithing 3s., Kinghorn 3s., Irvine 6d., Pittenweem 4s., Dumfermling 8s 4d., Enster Wester 1s., Dumbartoun 6d., Elgine 7s., Nairne 1s., Forras 1s., Lauder 1s., Queensferry 1s., Stranraer 1s., and Campbletown 1s. 6d.

Taxt roll.

9. Appointed committees to meet with the sheriffs of Murray and Nairne and endeavour to adjust the differences between them and the burghs of Forras and Nairne respectively, for holding courts in any other places than these burghs which are the head burghs of the shires.

Forras, Nairne.

10. Cautioners presented for James Douglas, staple factor at Campheir.

Douglas, factor.

11. Appointed the agent to concur with and assist the burgh of Culross "in the proces at ther instance against ther neighboureing heritors for incroaching upon the property of ther mure."

Culross.

EDINBURGH. 20 July 1702.

20 [10 ?] July 1702.

Committie anent the staple port.

12. Appointed a committee to take under consideration the whole affairs relating to the staple port, and to receive the report of the commissioners sent to Campheir; also to consider and determine regarding the complaint of Alexander Clerk and John Fraser, merchants in Inverness, against the conservator, and to consider the petition given in by Gilbert Stewart, with power to dispose by roup or otherwise of the sums due by unfree traders and fines due by the transgressors at the staple port.

Act in favours of John Gregorie.

13. Remitted to the committee appointed by the preceding act a petition given in by John Gregorie, merchant in Campheir, craving to be admitted one of the staple factors.

Visitation of Peebles.

14. Appointed a committee to visit the condition of the burgh of Peebles and report to next general convention.

Visitation of Glasgow.

15. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Glasgow and to report as to their common good, trade and public works.

Act anent incidents.

16. The convention statut and ordain that for heirafter the agent shall not deburse any incidents for or upon the accompt of the royall borrowes without a speciall warrand in wryteing from my lord provost or dean of gild of Edinburgh in his absence, for the tyme, with certificatione the saides incidents shall not be allowed in his accompts, and that the saids incidents shall be wnder the recognizance of the nixt generall conventione.

Act alloweing Penkailland 3 ginnies.

17. Allowed to the clerk to the commission of parliament for regulation of trade "three ginnies for his paynes in extracting the wholl acts and minuts of the procedour of the said comission."

Jedburgh.

18. Having considered petition of Jedburgh, the convention appointed the agent to make payment to the burgh of 500 marks.

Dumfreise.

19. The convention haveing considered the petition given in by the burgh of Dumfreise, representing the sade and deplorable condition therof through the late fire that happened ther, wherein fyfty families were brunt out and the most of them left in a poor and mean conditione, doe therfor recomend to the wholl royall borrows to be liberall in ther contribution for their releiff how soon the lords of Her Majesties privie councill shall emitt ther proclamation for that effect, and appoint the former visitours to give in ther report.

Tayne.

20. The conventione haveing heard and considered the petitione given

in by the burgh of Tayne, mentioneing that it is nottourly knowen that they have been thir ten yeares bypast a head of the misive for supply to help the reparatione of ther tolbooth and steeple, and that severall of ther number hes been supplyed is made appear by the records, and the said burgh haveing the misfortoun of late that one Sinclair of Rater, being incarcerat within thair Tolbooth severall moneths, did in Apryll last make his escape by breacking through the roume quher he was and by false keyes to the outer door, and he being arrested by sewerall of his creditors [for] upwards of four thousand pownds Scots, your petitioners are distressed for payment therof, which will undoubtedly ruine us except the honorable convention take our caice to consideratione and appoint the agent to concurr with your petitioners in persewing the said Sinclair of Rater upon the publict expences since he is solvent, your petitioners being most willing to repay what expenssis shall be debursed therin after wee shall recover payment of Rater; which being considered by the conventione they heirby appoynt ther agent to concurr with ther petitioners upon the publict expences in persewing Rater befor the privie councill or any other judicator, and to deburse what mony shall be needfull therin; and the agent to proceed therin by advyce of the comity anent the staple. EDINBURGH. 20 July 1702. Tayne.

21. The convention statuts and ordaines the first article of the misive in maner followeing, viz., that each burgh send up thair commissioner sufficiently instructed for keeping the convention, with thair comissions wnder the comon seal and subscription of ther magistrats or comon clerk, testifieing them to be men fearing God, of the trew protestant religione publictly professed and authorised by the laws of this kingdome, without suspition in the contrair, expert in the comon affairs of the borrowes, merchants, tradsmen, and inhabitants within the said burgh, bearing all portable chairges with his neighbours and bears a pairt of the publict burdenes, and can tin and win in all ther affaires; or if the person elected comissioner be not ane merchant, traffecquer, and constant residenter as above said, that he be testified ane proprietor of lands holding burgage to the value of three thousand marks in the said burgh and bearing burden as aforsaid, and can tin and win in all the comon concernes of the burgh. And the haill commissions to generall and particular conventiones to be according to this present plateform in all tyme comeing to be observed inviolably by ilk burgh, under the penalty of 1000 marks to Act anent the plateform.

EDINBURGH. 20 July 1702.

Act anent the plateform.

be payed by each burgh granteing comissions to persones not qualified as said is, and 100 lib to be payed by the acceptors if they be not really soe qualified as said is, by and attour the casting of ther commissioners and incapacitating the said burgh from haveing any representative dureing the sitting of that present convention.

Accounts. 21*a*. The accounts for 1700-1 and 1701-2 are here inserted.

Aberbrothock, Invernesse. 22. Ordained a petition of the burgh of Arbroth "representing the ruinous conditione of ther harbour" to be a head of next general missive; and a petition from Inverness with deliverance thereon to be inserted in the book and extracts given.

Edinburgh. 23. Allowed to the burgh of Edinburgh £300 sterling "as a gratuity in consideration of ther loss and damnages," and continued their condition to be a head of next general missive.

Several burghs. 24. Continued the conditions of several burghs and reports thereon to be a head of next general missive.

Edinburgh, Kirkcudbright. 25. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Edinburgh and report as to their comon good, trade and public works; a petition of Kirkcudbright to be a head of next general missive.

Agent, missive dues. 26. The convention appointed Mr John Buchan, advocate, to be their agent till next general convention, with full power to exercise the office as formerly. As Robert Forbes of Lernie, advocate, is cautioner for the missive dues being properly applied the convention appointed these dues to be paid to him.

Act in favours of Andrew Ross. 27. Ordained Mr Robert Forbes to make payment to Andrew Ross, writer in Edinburgh, of the balance due to him after stating his accounts of intromissions with the missive dues.

Gratuities and sallaries. 28. Allowed to the clerks, servants and others, certain gratuities and salaries.

Forbes, bond, accounts. 29. Robert Forbes of Lernie signed his bond. Agent's accounts from Jul 1700 to July 1702 to be revised and cleared.

Act of Adjournment. 30. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general conv tion to be held at Glasgow in July 1703.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

16 October 1702.

[illegible] Adam Brown, D.G., William Livingstoun; Perth, Patric [illegible]ean; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Glasgo

Montgomrie; Kirkcaldie, James Oswald; Dumfreise, William Copeland; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Culross, John Adam; Northberwick, Mr James Smith; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Galloway, John Chalmers. EDINBURGH. 16 October 1702.

17 October 1702.

1. Hugh Cuninghame, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed. Alleadgiance and assurance.
3. Revised and approved of the commissions. Commissions approven.

4. The conventione haveing considered the misive directed to them by the lord provost of Edinburgh anent the union proposed betuixt the two kingdomes, and that it is the intrest of the royall borrowes to give the best advyce they can to the commissioners nominat by her Majestie for to treat about the said union, therfor the convention appoints the articles followeing to be recorded and therafter delyvered to the saids commissionars, as ther best advyce in maner followeing, viz.:—(1mo) That the saides commissionars be cairfull for the preservatione of the presbiterian government of the church of this kingdome as presently established and other privieledges of the said church. (2do) The government of this kingdome by our own lawes and constitutions. (3^{tio}) The communicatione of trade betuixt the two kingdoms of Scotland and England, and particularly to the plantationes in the East and West Indies. Which three articles the conventione particularly recomends to the saids comissioners for the Union named by her Majestie out of the estait of borrowes. As also the convention appoynts the commissioners of the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Air, Kirkcaldie, Dumfreise and Annan, with the commissionars of such other burghs as shall be found upon the place for the tyme, shall, upon advertisement from the lord provost of Edinburgh, meet as oft as shall be needfull in order to keep a correspondance with the saides commissioners, and to give them advyce from tyme to tyme as to what may be for the good of the church and kingdome, and particularly of the trade thereof; and for that effect to take advyce of her Majesties advocat, and to take the help and assistance of the merchants and all others who are capable to give the best advyce and councill in matters of soe great import; as also to transmitt to the saids commissionars such authentick documents or other wryts or coppies of them as Articles anent the union with England.

EDINBURGH. 17 October 1702.

Articles anent the union with England.

may give them light and informatione in negotiating the union; and for that effect they appoynt ther clerks to search the records of the borrowes or any other records in soe far as they can have access, for all acts, grants, patents, and documents or other wryts that may give light in the forsaid affair. And sicklyck recomends to the saids commissionars that in caice ther be any reservatione made in favours of the Inglish or ther tradeing companies exclusive of Scotland, that the saides commissionaris use their most cair and endeavours that the grants and privieledges that wee have by law and acts of parliament in favours of our forraigne trade and companies be lyckwayes reserved and preserved to us.

Expenses of commissioners.

5. The convention recomends the commissionars for the Union, nominat by her Majestie out of the state of the royall borrowes, to the nixt anwall convention, for a consideratione for ther necesar charges and expences in caice these gentlemen be not *aliunde* considered be the government aither befor or after the said conventione.

Report, staple.

6. John Allardes, lait provost of Aberdeen, did in presence of the conventione make offer of the report of his negotiatione in setleing the staple port, which the convention refused to take in respect their is ane comity appoynted by the last generall convention to take the same.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* GLASGOW.

GLASGOW. 3 August 1703.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Adam Brown, dean of gild, and William Livingstoun; Perth, Patrick Davidson; Dundee, John Douncan; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirline, Mr Francis Neaper; Lithgow, Robert Andrew; St Andrews, John Mories; Glasgow, John Peddie; Air, Thomas M'Jorrow; Hadingtoune, William M'Call; Dyssart, George Eassone; Kirkcaldie, John Whyte; Montrose, James Milne; Coupar, Henrie Spence; Dumfreis, William Copeland; Invernese, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, John Rutherfoord; Inverkeithing, James Spitell; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Breichen, David Gray; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuningham; Jedburgh, John Fullartoun; Kirkcudbright, James Gordon; Wigetoun, William Coultran; Pittenweem, Mr Robert Cleiland; Dumfermling, John Veatch; Selkirk, Robert Scot; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Coline Campble; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Archibald Simpson; Aberbrothock, John Hutcheson; Elgine, Mr William Sutherland; Peebles, John Tweedie; Culross, John Adam; Tayne, Æneas Macleod; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Whythorn,

William M'Candish ; Forfar, Charles Dickson ; Rothesay, Archibald Stewart ; Nairn, John Rose ; Rutherglen, John Scot; Annan, George Blair ; Galloway, John Chalmers ; Dingwall, John Bayne ; Queensferrie, John Hill ; Kintoir, Robert Bruce ; Innerurie, Mr Robert Forbes ; Innerara, James Campble ; Stanraer, Mr George Dalrymple ; Campbletoun, Alexander Rowat ; (fourteen burghs *absent.*) GLASGOW. 3 August 1703. Sederunt.

3 August 1703.

1. Hugh Montgomerie of Bussbie, lord provost of Glasgow, elected preses. Preses.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.
3. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed. Members qualified.
4. Approved of all the commissions produced. Commissions approven.

4 August 1703.

5. The convention takeing to their consideration that it was necessary for them to clear and condescend upon the reasons why this present convention did not preceisly observe the dyet of the first Tuesday of Jully as hes been formerly keeped and was appoynted by the last generall convention in Jully j^{m} vij^{c} and two years, therfor they doe hereby declair that the samen was done for the reasons followeing :—(1°) Because the parliament was then sitting and that seweralls of the members therof hade comissions to attend the generall convention, which being to meett at Glasgow these who were members of both could not be present at the convention. (2do) There were most important affairs relative to the royall borrowes depending befor the parliament, as particularly the ten pound of the taxt roll payable by the unfree tradders, and lyckwayes the trade of the royall borrowes which was under much decay, soe that it was necessary the members should attend. (3^{tio}) The records of the royall borrowes were inspected and it was found that in anno j^{m} vj^{c} and eighty one that the lord provost of Edinburgh for the tyme did upon the emergent of the sitting of a session of parliament adjourn the generall convention, which was therafter ratified by the generall conventione and thanks given to the lord provost of Edinburgh for the samen. All which being dewly considered, the generall convention are weell satisfied that the forsaid lait adjournment was reasonably done with a dew regaird to the weell fare of the estaits of borrowes, and therfor they doe ratifie, confirme, and Act anent the adjournment of the anwall conventions.

GLASGOW. 4 August 1703.

Act anent the adjournment of the anwall conventions.

approve of the samen, and doe authorize and sustain the present convention and all the acts and statuts to be past therin to be als valid and sufficient to all intents and purposes as if this present generall convention hade been held and keept in the ordinar maner upon the first Tuesday of Jully last; provideing allwayes, lyckeas it is heirby specially provided and declaired, that this present act approveing of the lait adjournment shall be no rule aither for the lord provost of Edinburgh or any other who shall be preses for the tyme, or any nomber of persones, as representatives of the borrowes, meeting togidder to draw the samen in ane president heirafter, and that it shall not be in ther power to adjourn the conventiones, aither generall or particular, otherwayes all such persones as are accessorie to the said adjournment shall be esteemed as violators and breakers of the privieledges of the royall borrowes and proceeded against accordingly.

5 August 1703.

Plateform altered.

6. The convention doe alter the present plateforme in maner followeing, viz., that in caice the person elected commissioner be not merchant, traffecquer, and constant residenter within the burgh which he designs to represent, it shall not be a sufficient qualificatione that his commission testifie him to be ane proprietar of lands holding burgage in the said burgh to the value of three thousand merks except he shall upon his solemn oath depon upon the verity of the said attestatione and value of the lands, and that he shall not be admitted as a member of the said conventione untill he depon accordingly, but prejudice in all other particulars.

Act anent Ewan M'Grigor and partners.

7. Anent the article of the misive anent Ewan Macgrigor and his manufactorie of old broad cairds, ther was ane universall complaint of the comissioners against him that he haveing obtained ane patent for the manufactoreing of cairds hes upon pretence therof procured a heavie impositione to be laid on old cairds imported and that his cairds are insufficient, and that by vertew of ane decreit surreptisiously obtained he forces the leidges to buy the same, or otherwayes by undirect methods puts them to trouble and expences, whereupon the conventione remitts this affair to Edinburgh, Hadingtowne, Lithgow, Glasgow, Dumfreise, Dumbartoun, Bamff, and Innerurie, with power to them to call such

other burghs as shall be at Edinburgh for the tyme and to receave the complents of the borrowes against him, and to prosecut the samen befor the lords of her Majesties privie councilor befor the parliament as shall be found most expedient, and to proceed therein with all dilligence. GLASGOW. 5 August 1703. Act anent Ewan M'Grigor and parners.

8. The convention delayed the alteration of the tax roll till next general convention, reserving power to relieve such burghs as are most heavily burdened by the ten pounds of the tax roll appointed to be paid by unfree traders. Taxt roll.

9. "Here follows the accompts of the missive dewes for the years j^m^ vij^c^, j^m^ vij^c^ and one, and j^m^ vij^c^ and two years." The disbursements in the account from July 1700 to July 1701 amount to £14,793, 2s. 4d.; for 1701-2, to £12,556; 1s. 4d.; and for 1702-3, to £11,124, 15s. 4d. Accompts.

10. Appointed the agent to pay to Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, £1136, 4s., due to him as a creditor of John Buchan, agent of the convention, which sum is already allowed to the agent in his stated accounts. Agents' creditors.

11. The conventione considering that the great expence of incidents payed out by the agent does ly verie heavie upon the royall borrowes, therfor to prevent the lyck expence in tyme comeing they dischairge the agent for heirafter to pay out any incidents for the accompt of the royall borrowes without a speciall warrand from the royall borrowes themselves, or the lord provost of Edinburgh for the tyme; and the conventione declaires that in case the agent shall deburse any incidents without such warrants that the same shall not be allowed in his accompts, and that the warrants soe to be given contain the reasons, and the saids incidents to be under the recognizance of the nixt generall conventione. Act anent the incidents.

12. The generall convention haveing considered ane letter from her Majestie anent the staple port,* and after consideratione therof finds that a great many of ther members being obleidged to repair to the parliament, soe that the convention have not tyme to goe through the particulars contained in the said letter soe as to give her Majestie ane present answer, they doe hereby nominat and appoint [a committee] to consider hir Majesties letter and to examine the report given in by the lait commissioners sent to Campheir, with the documents and instructiones therof, as also the letters direct to them by the states of Zealand and town of Campheir, and all other petitiones and reports anent the staple, with such answers as shall be offered be the lord conservator therunto, Comitty anent the staple.

* See Letter, *infra* p. 363.

GLASGOW. 5 August 1703.

Comity anent the staple.

and to transmitt ane impartiall accompt of the wholl to hir Majestie by the secretaries of state, and to report their opinion of the wholl matter to the nixt generall conventione. . . . . And sicklyck, the convention remitts the petition given in by Alexander Clerk, with the report relative therto, to the above comitie, and all other affairs relateing to the staple.

Act anent John Hamiltouns bond.

13. Having considered a petition of certain merchants in Glasgow, the convention appointed the cautioners of John Hamilton, factor in Campheir, to see and answer the petition.

Act in favours of Margrat Orrock.

14. The conventione haveing considered the petition given in by Margrat Orrock, relict of George Oliphant, late provost of Perth, and the reasones therin represented, and albeit they are convinced that ther is no legal obligatione upon the conventione to pay the same, yeit considering that the defunct dyed in the conventions service and the relicts circumstances, they appoynt the agent to pay to the said Margrat Orrock eight hundreth pounds Scots as a gratuity for defraying the funerall chairges of the defunct.

Act in favours of Provost Allardes.

15. The conventione haveing considered the petition given in by John Allardes, lait provost of Aberdeen, and what is therin represented, and albeit he hes no legall clame against the conventione for his expences debursed by him in goeing to Campheir in ordor to setle and adjust all differrences at the staple port, yeit notwithstanding they appoynt thair agent to make payment to the said John Allardes of the sowme of fyfty pound, sterline, and that as a gratuity for the said service, and delayes the said petition, with Mrs Oliphants petition, to be taken under any farder consideratione untill the fynes dew be the transgressors of the staple port be made effectwall; and in the mean tyme ordains the said John Allardes to lodge the report of his negotiation in the clerks handes untill which tyme the agent is heirby discharged to make payment of the above sowme.

£300 sterling apportioned amongst several burghs.

16. Referring to the 8th act of this convention, they appointed the sum of £300 sterling to be divided by the committee appointed to meet anent the staple amongst the burghs most heavily burdened by the laying upon them of the ten pounds of the tax roll appointed to be paid by unfree traders. The convention also remitted to the committee to consider the petitions and condition of several burghs.

James Armour.

17. Remitted to a committee to consider the petition given in by James Armour, merchant, with his project relative thereto.

GLASGOW. 5 August 1703.

18. The conventione haveing considered the petition given in by the maisters of St Leonards Colledge in St Andrews and the reasons therin represented, they appoynt the agent to make payment to them of the sowme of three hundreth marks as a gratuity given to them for assisting the reparation of the said colledge.

300 merks allowed to St Leonards College.

Address to be presented to parliament.

19. The conventione haveing heard the draught of ane address to be presented by them to the parliament, creaveing that they may be reponed to ther former privieledges or releived of ten pounds of the taxt roll, which being considered by the convention they ordain the samen to be signed by the preses in ther name and given in to the parliament without delay and that the clerk record the said address after disolveing of the convnntione.

Annan bridge.

20. Having considered a petition by the burgh of Annan, the convention "recomend to the haill royall borrowes to be liberall in their contributione towards the building of ane bridge over the water of Annan."

Severall burghs.

21. Appointed "the caice and conditiones of the burghs of Pittenweem, Lanerk and Rothesay," to be a head of next general missive.

Moncurr, borrow officer.

22. Referring to the 9th act of the general convention in 1697 appointing James Moncurr to be officer after John Wardlaw's decease, he being present accepted, and the agent was appointed to pay him £100 Scots "in lieu of sallarie and gratuity yearly."

Act discharging dinners and treats.

23. The convention takeing to ther serious consideratione that the respective burghs where the generall convention of borrowes doe happen to meit doe put themselves to unnecessarie expences and chairges in giveing great dinners and treats to the commissioners to the convention, as also by giveing ribbans with the burges tickets, quherwith they complement the members of the conventione, therfor they discharge the saids dinners, treats, and ribbans as said is, with this certificatione that the burgh contraveening shall be augmented twenty shillinges in the taxt roll *toties* and *quoties*.

Forbes, agent.

24. Appointed Mr Robert Forbes of Lernie, advocate, to be agent to the royal burghs, for behoof of Mr John Buchan, till next general convention.

Dundie.

25. Granted warrant to the burgh of Dundie "to sell the lands of Hiltoun and Loggie to the best advantage," at the sight and by the advice of certain burghs who were appointed to see the price applied towards payment of so much of the burgh's debt.

GLASGOW. 5 August 1703.

Wigtoun.

26. Appointed the agent to assist the burgh of Wigtoun "and advance what monie shall be necessarie for discussing the suspension obtained against their customes."

Aberbrothock.

27. Appointed the agent to concur with and assist the burgh of Aberbrothock "in the proces intended at their instance befor the privie councill against Andrew Smeiton for his incroaching upon their property, and that he advance what monie is necessarie for that effect."

Sallaries and gratuities.

28. Appointed the agent to make payment of certain salaries and gratuities.

Act of adjournment.

29. Dissolved the present meeting, and appointed the next general convention to be held at Glasgow in July 1704.

EDINBURGH. 12 August 1703.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *appointed by the 12th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Adam Brown; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Dundie, John Douncan; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Glasgow, Hugh Montgomrie; Air, John Mure; Kirkcaldie, John Whyte; Dumfreise, Robert Johnstoun; Wigetoun, William Coultran; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Tayne, Æneas Macleod; Nairn, John Rose; Innerurie, Mr Robert Forbes.

12 August 1703.

Gregorie, factor.

Agreed to the admission of John Gregorie, merchant in Campheir, to be one of the staple factors there.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 30 November 1703.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Robert Blackwood, D. G., and William Livingstoun; Perth, Patrick Davidson; Dundie, John Douncan; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Stirline, Frances Neaper; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; Glasgow, John Anderson; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, George Easson; Kirkcaldie, James Oswald; Montrose, William Couts; Dumfreise, William Copeland; Invernese, Mr John M'Intosh; Inverkeithing, James Spitle; Kinghorn, *absent*; Jedburgh, John Fullartoun; Wigetoun, William Coultran; Pittenweem, Mr Robert Cook; Selkirk, Robert Scot; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Dumbar, Robert

Kelie; Aberbrothock, John Hutchesone; Peebles, John Tweedie; Bamff, George Ogilvie; Northberwick, Mr James Smith; Lauder, Sir David Cuningham; Queensferrie, John Hill. EDINBURGH. 30 November 1703. Sederunt.

30 November 1703.

1. Sir Hugh Cunninghame, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.
3. Approved of all the commissions, except those of the burghs of Enster Easter and Stranraer, "which they reject as being contrair to the platform." Commissions approved.
4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed. Members qualified.
5. Appointed a committee to consider the missive and all other things that shall be remitted to them by the convention. Committee.

6. The conventione statuts and ordains that ane letter be sent by this present generall convention advertiseing the haill unfree traders within this kingdome that the nixt anwall generall conventione will condescend upon the sewerall proportions which the saides unfree traders are to relieve the royall borrowes of for ther unfree trade, and lyckwayes that ane summonds be raised befor the lords of sessione at the instance of Sir Robert Forbes of Lernie, advocat, agent for the royall borrowes for the tyme, for makeing payment of what they owe for bygones, and that the citationes swa to be given be given *simul et semel* with the said letter; and the convention for the better manadgeing the said affair nominats and appoynts the burghs of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hadingtown, Kirkcaldie, Invernese, Pittenweem and Dumbartoun, as a comittie, whereof three to be a quorum, to give such advyce and directione anent the manadgement of the said [affair] as they shall think fitt; and it is heirby specially recomended to the magistrats of the sewerall royall borrowes to make enquirie after the sewerall unfree traders, exporters, and importers, and all those who retaill foiraigne commodities, that is bought from any except burges of royall borrowes contrair to law, whereby the trade of the royall borrowes is greatly prejudged and to send in lists of the persons names soe tradeing to the said agent betuixt and the (*blank*) day of Febwarie nixt to come; with certificatione to such of the royall borrowes as shall be deficient in sending up the saids lists betuixt and the forsaid day that they will be represented to the nixt anwall conventione as not prejudged by such unfree traders; and ordains the said agent to raise and execute the said Unfree traders.

EDINBURGH. 30 November 1703.

summonds and make the forsaid intimatione and deburse what is needfull theranent, and manadge the wholl affair by advyce of the said comitie.

Letter to burghs of baronies and regalities.

7. Sir James Smollet did present to the conventione the draught of ane letter to be sent to the burghs off barronies and regalities, which being publictly read was approven and ordained to be recorded and to be signed by the lord provost of Edinburgh, ther preses, in ther name, wherof the tenor followes: Gentlemen,—The last anwall conventione at Glasgow did appoynt ane conventione to be called by the lord provost of Edinburgh to give ordors anent what might be fitt to doe in referrence to the unfree trade, and wee haveing accordingly mett and considered the remitt made to us by the said anwall conventione, with the acts of parliament impowering us anent the unfree traders, wee have resolved to condescend upon the sewerall proportions whereof they are to releive us, at our generall meeting in Glasgow, Jully nixt, and to proportione the samen with all the justice and equalitie that wee are capable of. Meantyme wee thought it our deuty upon our pairt to advertise yow as wee have done others concerned to be present at that conventione, and wee think your own intrest will prevaill with yow for that effect, that by your informatione wee may the better know the circumstances of the burghs of barronie and regality which may direct us in our procedour, haveing no other intention but to adjust the sewerall proportiones according to the condition of the unfree traders; and because this referrs only to the payments in tyme comeing wee are obleidged for ansuering the trust committed to us to send lyckwayes ane citatione for payment of the bygons, that wee may be in the course of dilligence, but wee intend not to proceed to any decisione therin untill first the convention in Jully be over. Meantyme be pleased to comunicat this letter to the unfree traders within your jurisdictione that they may not pretend ignorance.

Unfree traders.

8. The convention, for the better discovering of the unfree traders, recomends to the haill royall borrowes to send in to the agent, with the lists of the unfree traders within ther precints, lists of all the freemen, burgesses within ther respective burghs, that packs and peills with unfreemen or keeps chopes in unfree burghs or places for retailling of forraigne comodities, and that betuixt and the said third Tuesday of Febwarie.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *for proportioning the* 300 *lib. sterling, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. Date *blank.*

Edinburgh, Robert Blackwood and William Levingstoun; Perth, Patrick Davidsone; Dundie, John Douncan; Aberdeen, Thomas Mitchell; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; Glasgow, John Anderson; Montrose, William Couts; Dumfreise, William Copeland; Invernese, Mr John M'Intosh; Wigetoune, William Coultran; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Innerurie, Sir Robert Forbes. Sederunt.

The committee appointed by the 16th act of last general convention apportioned the sum of £300 sterling therein voted amongst the several burghs as follows, viz.:—Perth, £32; Dundie, £38; Aberdeen, £18; Stirling, £3; Glasgow, £34; Hadingtown, £18; Dysart, £16; Kirkcaldie, £30; Montrose, £5; Coupar, £8; Enster Easter, £3; Inverness, £5; Bruntisland, £5; Inverkeithing, £4; Kinghorn, £4; Pittenweem, £4; Dumfermling, £8; Enster Wester, £2; Elgine, £3; Nairn, £2; Forras, £2; Lauder, £2; Queensferrie, £2; Stranraer, £2; extending in all to £250. The remaining £50 was apportioned as follows, viz.:—Dumfreise, £200 Scots; Jedburgh, £180; Selkirk, £90; Peebles, £70; Aberbrothock, £60, extending in all to £600 Scots. Proportioning 300 li. sterling amongst several burghs.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 19 February 1704.

Edinburgh, Robert Blackwood, dean of guild; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Innerurie, Sir Robert Forbes. Sederunt.

19 February 1704.

1. The committee appointed for determining the differences between the lord conservator and Robert Pantoun gave their opinion on the several claims remitted to them. Affair betuixt Panton and the conservator.

2. The committee appointed the dean of guild of Edinburgh and Sir James Smolet "to draw answers to the magistrats of Campheirs letter with the letters to the minister and consistorie and Mr Panton conform to ther report." Ansuers to letters.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* GLASGOW.

GLASGOW. 4 July 1704.

Edinburgh, Robert Blackwood, dean of gild, and William Livingstoun; Perth, Patrick Davidsone; Dundie, John Douncan; Aberdeen, Alexander Sederunt.

GLASGOW. 4 July 1704.

Sederunt.

Pattoune; Stirline, Mr Francis Neaper; Lithgow, Walter Stewart; St Andrews, John Mores; Glasgow, John Aird; Air, Hugh Mure; Hadingtowne, Alexander Edgar; Dysart, George Essone; Kirkcaldie, James Oswald; Montrose, James Scot; Coupar, Henrie Spence; Enster Easter, James Grahame; Dumfreise, William Copeland; Invernese, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, Alexander Andersone; Inverkeithing, Robert Baird; Kinghorn, John Aitkine; Brechine, James Spence; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Jedburgh, John Fullartoune; Kirkcudbright, James Gordone; Wigtoune, Patrick Coltrane; Pittenweem, Mr Robert Cleiland; Dumfermling, John Veatch; Enster Wester, William Lundie; Selkirk, Robert Scot; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Rhenfrew, Coline Campble; Dumbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, Archibald Simpsone; Aberbrothock, John Hutchesone; Elgine, William King; Peebles, John Tweedie; Craill, John Beathone; Tayne, Æneas Macleod; Culross, John Adam; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Whythorn, William M'Candish; Forras, Alexander Brodie; Rutherglen, John Scot; Northberwick, Archibald Lauder; Kilrennie, James Peacock; Lochmaben, John Forras; Sanquhair, James Huntair; Galloway, John Chalmers; Fortrose, William Tolme; Kintoir, Robert Bruce; Innerurie, John Fergusone; Innerara, John Fisher; Kirkwall, John Coventrie; Inverbervie, Andrew Bettie; Stanraer, Andrew Credie; Campbletoune, John Montgomrie; (ten burghs *absent*.)

4 July 1704.

Preses.

1. John Anderson of Dowhill, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Revising commissions.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

Commissions approven.

3. Approved of all the commissions produced.

Members qualified.

4. Oath of allegiance taken with the assurance to her majesty Queen Anne.

Committee.

5. Appointed a committee to consider the missive and all other things that shall be remitted to them.

Conjunct generall clerk.

6. The convention considering that the office of conjunct clerk to the royall borrowes is now vaceant, through the decease of Mr James Stewart, their lait conjunct generall clerk, and at their gift and dispositione, and that Mr Adam Watt, towne clerke of Edinburgh, is a person sufficiently qualified for exerceing the said office, therfor the generall convention elects, nominats, and choises the said Mr Adam Watt to be conjunct clerk to the saides royall borrowes dureing their pleasour, and allowes to him the half of the fies, profeits, casualties, and emoluments appertaining and belonging therto, sicklyck and als freely in all respects as any other conjunct clerk enjoyed the same, and he being present accepted his office and made faith *de fideli administratione*.

7. The conventione haveing heard the report of the comity appointed to consider the missive, they containow the haill articles therof to be heads of the nixt generall misive. GLASGOW. 4 July 1704. Missive.

8. The convention "haveing considered the 9th article of the misive anent the alteratione of the present taxt roll, and after a long tymes reasoneing and debeating theron, it was put to the vote, alter or not, and by pluralitie of votes it caried, alter. Therafter the question being moved, alter the wholl or the ten pounds only, caried the ten pounds only, which the conventione proportiones in maner underwrittin, viz., to the burgh of Perth, £1, 4s.; Aberdeen, 8s.; Stirling, 4s.; Glasgow, 16s.; Hadingtowne, 5s.; Montrose, 7s.; Invernese, 6s. 6d.; Irvine, 6d.; Dumbarton, 1s.; Elgine, 7s.; Nairne, 3s.; Forras, 1s.; Dingwall, 2s.; Dornock, 2s; Week, 2s.; Lanerk, 3s.; Forfar, 3s.; Lauder, 1s.; Queensferrie, 1s.; Rutherglen, 2s.; Kirkcudbright, 1s.; extending in all to £5 Scots. With regard to the other £5, the convention accepted the offer of Sir Robert Forbes to relieve them thereof, they assigning to him so much of the bygone debts owing by unfree traders as will reimburse him. Alteration of taxt roll.

9. Appointed the agent to make payment to the burgh of Jedburgh, who complained of their heavy proportion of the tax roll, of 500 marks of present supply. Jedburgh.

10. Having considered petition by the burgh of Kirkwall, the convention discharged the agent to proceed farther against them for bygone missive dues till next general convention, "and ordaines the saides magistrats, with concurrence of the stewart deput of Orkney, to send up upon oath ane accompt of the caice and conditione of the said burgh to the nixt generall conventione." Act in favours of Kirkwall.

11. Allowed to the burgh of Lanark £6 sterling of present supply. Lanerk.

12. Allowed to the burgh of Dumbartoun £50 sterling "to be imployed by them towards the repairatione of ther water works which are now much decayed." Dumbarton.

13. Having considered a petition "given in by Walter Ross, provost of Tayne, and George, earl of Cromarty, heretable bailly therof," on behalf of the council and community of the burgh, the convention granted 500 marks for rebuilding their tolbooth and steeple, "and recomends the voluntar contributione to such burghs as shall be pleased to assist them in the termes of the act of hir Majesties privie councill." Tayn.

14-16. Appointed the agent to pay to (14) the burgh of Bamff 500 marks "towards the reparatione of ther tolbooth;" (15) the burgh of Annan 300 marks "towards the building of ane bridge over the water of Annan;" and (16) the burgh of Forras 100 marks "towards the repairatione of ther tolbooth and schoollhouse." Bamff, Annan, Forras.

17, 18. Appointed committees to visit the burghs of New Galloway and Innerkeithing and report as to their common good, trade, and public works. New Galloway, Innerkeithing.

GLASGOW. 4 July 1704.

Aberbrothock, Peebles, Kirkcudbright.

19-21. Allowed to (19) the burgh of Aberbrothock 300 marks "towards the reparatione of ther peir and harbour;" (20) the burgh of Peebles £10 sterling "towards the reparatione of their miln dams;" and (21) the burgh of Kirkcudbright £5 sterling of present supply.

Bruntisland.

22. Appointed a committee to visit Bruntisland and report the condition of the burgh and of their common good, trade, pier, and harbour.

Rothesay.

23. Having considered a petition by the burgh of Rothesay, the convention discharged the agent to proceed farther with diligence for bygone missive dues till next general convention, and appointed a committee to visit the burgh and report its condition, "and in caice the said visitors does not goe after they are advertised by the said burgh the convention declairs they will receave ane declaratione under the magistrats hands in place thereof."

Selkirk.

24. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Selkirk and report as to their common good, trade, and public works.

Act for treating with unfree traders.

25. The convention having given commission to their agent to pursue all the unfree traders for their unfree trade, and "considering that ther may be seweralls of these unfree traders who will be satisfied to setle and agree with the royall burrows without the necessity of a legall proces," they appointed a committee to meet the first Thursday of each month till next general convention "to treat, setle, and aggree with those will make such reasonable transactiones with them as they can accept of for bygones and untill the nixt generall conventione in July 1705 allenarly."

Admission of commone clerk of Dumfreis.

26. The convention ratified, approved, and confirmed an act of the town town council of Dumfries dated 6th March last anent the admission of any common clerk of the burgh, "and appoints the said act to be recorded in the borrow books after the ryseing of the conventione."

Gilbert Stewart, staple port.

27. Having considered the petition of Gilbert Stewart, merchant in Edinburgh, with his account of disbursements in the process against the transgressors of the staple port, the convention appointed their agent to pay him £314 Scots, "and remitts his paynes and gratificatione therfor to the consideratione of the nixt generall conventione."

Affairs of staple port. Armourers petition.

28. The convention "considering that ther tyme will not allow them to take under ther consideratione the wholl peapers relateing to the staple port," appointed a committee with full powers, to meet after this general convention, to consider all affairs relating to the staple port, as to factors renewing their cautioners, and the affair between the conservator and Robert Pantoun. Also remitted to the committee a petition by James Armour, merchant in Glasgow.

Dumfreis, fire.

29. Appointed the agent "to concurr with the burgh of Dumfreise whenever the said burgh shall address the publict for some releiff to ther poor inhabitants who suffered by the lait dreadfull fire that happened ther."

Unfree trade.

30. Having considered report of the committee appointed to consider the matter of the unfree trade, the convention "recomend it to the comittie that is

to sitt at Edinburgh theranent to apply to the parliament in the said affair or not after such manner as they shall think fitt." GLASGOW. 4 July 1704.

31. Remitted to the committee anent the staple a petition by the conservator, with a letter from the consistory, to draw an answer thereto; "and in regaird the conservator hes declaired, upon honour and conscience, that he did nothing to hinder the consistorie to comply with the desire of the comittie appointed to consider the affair of the staple, they appoynt Mr Pantoun to pay to the conservator all the monie he owes his lordship conform to the report of the comitie." Conservator, Panton.

32. Having considered petition by John Allardes, late provost of Aberdeen, the convention allowed him £50 sterling in full of all he can claim from the royal burghs, "and recomends him to the towne of Aberdeen for the superplus of the sowmes defrayed in his voyage to Campheir." £50 to John Allerdes.

33. Appointed the agent to inquire into what is represented in petitions by the burghs of Fortrose and Inverurie, "and to concurr or not as he shall think fitt with the burgh of Innerurie, and to advance quhat monie is necessarie in the action persewed be Fortrose against the shire of Ross." Fortrose and Inverurie.

34. Having considered petition by William Adam, merchant in Culross, complaining that John Hamilton, factor at Campheir, had arrested certain staple goods consigned to him, the convention ordered the arrestment to be loosed upon Adam finding caution to pay all that could be laid to his charge. Arrestment of William Adam's effects.

35. The convention ratified and approved of the sale by the burgh of Aberbrothock of the lands called Badieshill, in favour of Captain Andrew Smeiton of Greenlawhill, "in regaird the adequat price, being three thousand marks, is applyed for payment of soe much of the towns debt." Ratifying sale of lands by Aberbrothuick.

36. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1703 to July 1704, extending to £10,608, 2s. 6d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions. Agent's accompts.

37. Appointed the agent to pay to Margrat Orrock, relict of George Oliphant, late provost of Perth [£173, 14s.], which with £800 Scots, formerly given, completely pays 749 guilders at 26s. per guilder, "being the funeral charges of the said George Oliphant who dyed in Holland when comissioned by the royall borrowes to negotiat the affair of the staple port; and remitts her farder consideratione to the nixt generall conventione." Margrat Orrock, relict of George Oliphant.

38. Ratified "the act made at Perth in favours of James Moncurr, to be borrow officer and allowes to him fifteen pounds sterline of sallarie." Moncurr, officer.

39. Allowed to the burgh of Sanquhair £100 Scots of present supply, and to the burgh of Rutherglen £40 Scots. Sanquhair, Rutherglen.

40. Appointed the agent to make payment of certain salaries and gratuities. Salaries and gratuities.

41. Dissolved the present meeting, and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1705. Act dissolving this convention.

EDINBURGH. 8 January 1705.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *appointed by the 25th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, Sir Robert Blackwood; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Aberdeen, Alexander Pattone; Hadingtown, Alexander Edgar; Air, Robert Mure; Montrose, James Milne; Kirkcaldie, James Oswald; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Jedburgh, John Fullartoun; Lithgow, Walter Stewart.

8 January 1705.

Preses. 1. Sir Patrick Johnstoun, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Anent unfree traders. 2. The comittie haveing considered the report made by Sir Robert Forbes of Lernie, ther agent, in relatione to the unfree traders, with ane information drawen by lawiers theranent, they are of opinion that the said Sir Robert shall setle and aggree with the unfree traders from Jully j^m vj^c and nyntie seaven to Jully nixt j^m vij^c and five years, and that in the tearms of ther aggreements with Mr John Buchan; and as for those of the unfree traders who will refuse to aggree and pay in the terms aforsaid, the comitie ordains the said Sir Robert to proceed against them according to the acts of parliament made in favours of the royall borrows, and that for all bygones preceeding the year j^m vij^c and four years; and sicklyck that the said Sir Robert interpell them from all maner of trade-ing for this present year and in all tyme comeing untill such tyme as they come in and aggree, with this express quality that thir presents shall be but prejudice of Sir Robert Forbes being lyable to the fyve pounds Scots he has undertaken to pay conform to the taxt roll conform to the act of the generall convention holden at Glasgow in Jully last.

Arrestment of William Adam's money. 3. Referring to the 34th act of last general convention, William Adam represented that though he had found sufficient caution the arrestment had not been loosed. The committee ordained the arrestment to be forthwith loosed, and in case of disobedience, granted warrant to cite John Vere Kennedie, who had refused to give effect to the act, to appear before next general convention and answer for his contumacy.

Letter to the States of Zeland for sufficient convoyes. 4. The comitie haveing considered the petition given by Alexander Glasfoord, skipper in Borrowstouness, and what is therin represented, they

appoint Sir James Smolet, with the first conveniencie, to wryt ane letter to the stats of Zealland desireing them to give sufficient convoyes to the Scots ships lyeing at Campheir homeward, which letter they appoynt to be signed by the lord provost of Edinburgh, their preses, and therafter recorded.

EDINBURGH. 8 January 1705.

Letter to the States of Zeland for sufficient convoyes.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *anent the Unfree Traders, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 5 February 1705.

Edinburgh, Sir Robert Blackwood; Glasgow, John Andersone; Hadingtoune, Alexander Edgar; Irvine, Mr Alexander Cuninghame; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnstoune. Sederunt.

5 February 1705.

1. The lord provost of Edinburgh elected preses. Preses.

2. The comity haveing considered the offer made by Sir John Shaw of Greenock, viz., that he is content to pay for his towne of Greenock fyve shillings Scots of the taxt roll, commenceing from Jullie j^m^ vj^c^ and nintie seaven years, and two shillings Scots for the rest of the paroch off Greenock from the said tyme and in tyme comeing untill July nixt, they doe accept thereof and appoynts Sir Robert Forbes, ther agent, to exact payment from the said Sir John Shaw of the haill cess and missive dewes imposed and uplifted from the royall borrowes since Jully j^m^ vj^c^ ninty seaven untill the said first Jully nixt j^m^ vij^c^ and fyve yeirs inclusive, with the ordinar anual rents thereof from the respective tearmes of payment, and ordains the said agent to discharge or assigne the said Sir John, in the said Sir Johns option, effeiring to the said seaven shillings of the taxt roll in soe far as concernes the said towne of Greenock ther unfree trade dureing the tyme forsaid, conform the act of parliament j^m^ vj^c^ and nyntie eight yeares, and lyckwayes to assigne the said Sir John Shaw to the rest of the said paroch of Greenock for his releiff dureing the space forsaid, the said agent being allwayes comptable to the royall borrowes at ther nixt generall conventione for what he receaves.

Offer for the toun and paroch of Greenock.

EDINBURGH. 1 March 1705.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, Sir Robert Blackwood; Perth, Alexander Robertsone; Hadingtowne, Alexander Edgar; Dyssart, John Black; Kirkcaldie, James Oswald; Dumfermling, John Veatch; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smolet; Annan, Mr William Johnstoune.

1 March 1705.

Preses. 1. The lord provost of Edinburgh elected preses.

Committee for receiving offers, &c. 2. The comitie appoints Edinburgh, Hadingtowne, Kirkcaldie, and Dumbartoun, or any two of them, Edinburgh being alwayes one, to meet as a sub-comittie and receave what offers shall be made for the unfree trade and to report the same to the comittie against the first Thursday of Apryll nixt, and they ordain Sir Robert Forbes, ther agent, to aggree with Peterhead and Stonhyve at the rate of three shillinges of the taxt roll for both the saids places, and with Prestounpanns at the rate of ten shillinges six pennies for bygones from Jully j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty seaven to Jully nixt, and that at the sight of the sub-comittie, and als ordains the said Sir Robert Forbes to acquaint the burghs of barronies and regalities that the forsaid sub-comity is appoynted to receave what offers shall be made by the haill unfree traders, and sicklyck the comittie adjourns ther nixt meeting to the first Thursday of Apryll nixt to come.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 7 June 1705. Sederunt. Edinburgh, Sir Robert Blackwood; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Dundie, (*blank*) Preston; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Montross, William Coutts; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dumfermling, John Veatch; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smollet; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnstoun; Dysert, John Black; Dumfreise, William Coupland.

7 June 1705.

Preses. 1. The lord provost of Edinburgh elected preses.

2. John Herriot in Dirletoun being pursued by the agent as an unfree trader, the committee remitted to the provost of Hadingtoun to inquire whether he has any trade or not. EDINBURGH. 7 June 1705. John Herriot in Dirletoun.

8 June 1705.

3. The committe, considering that the toun of Peterhead and adjacent paroches of Old Deer, Neu Deer, Longsyd and St Fergus, offerred to releive the royall burroues of fourteen pennes of the taxt roll, and Stonhyve ten pennes therof, for the communicatione of trade, and that of all years bygone since Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven till Jully nixt inclusive, therfor the committee, notwithstanding of their act dated the first of March last bypast, ordaine Sir Robert Forbes of Learny, agent for the royall burrowes, to agree with the said toun of Peterhead and adjacent paroches of Old Deer, New Deer, Longsyd and St Fergus and Stonhyve, from Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven years till Jully nixt inclusive, in the termes of the above writen offer; with power to the said Sir Robert to uplift and discharge the haill cess and missive dues imposed and exacted from the said royall burroues since the said moneth of Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven to the moneth of Jully nixt inclusive, effeirand to the forsaid proportion of tuo shilling Scots for ilk year of the years above exprest, with the ordinar annual rent therof after ther respective termes of payment, and to assigne the said toune of Peterhead against the said adjacent paroches for their releiff of their just proportion of the said tuo shilling Scots; provyding alwise the said Sir Robert be comptable to the royall burroues at ther nixt generall convention for what he receives. Agent to agree with Peterhead and adjacent parioches.

4. The committee considering the representation given in by the paroch of Weems, wherby they are willing to releive the royall burroues of one shilling Scots of the taxt roll for the communicatione of trade, and that of all years bygone since Jully 1697 years to Jully nixt inclusive, they autherise Sir Robert Forbes of Learny, agent to the royall burroues, to wplift and discharge the said toun and paroch of Weems of the haill cess and missive dues imposed and wplifted from the royall burroues since the first of Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven to the first of Jully nixt inclusive according to the forsaid proportion of one shilling Scots of the taxt roll yearly, with annual rents therof after the respective termes of payment, the said Paroch of Weems.

EDINBURGH. 8 June 1705.

Sir Robert being aluise comptable to the royall burroues at their nixt generall convention for what he receives.

12 June 1705.

William Cuthbertson in Tranent.

5. The committee upon a representation made to them by the provost of Haddingtoun that William Cuthbertson in Tranent wes charged with horning, as ane wnfree trader, at the instance of Sir Robert Forbes, agent for the royall burroues, albeit he used no trade, therfor they in the mean tyme stop any further procedur against the said William Cuthbertson and ordanis him to be excepted in any transactione that shall be made for the communicatione of trade with unfree traders in that place.

Agent to agree with Musleburgh.

6. The committee, considering that Sir Robert Dickson of Innerask had, in name of the toun of Musleburgh, Innerask, and parioch therof, offered to releive the royall borroues of tuo shilling Scots of the taxt roll for the communication of trade of all years bygone since Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven to Jully nixt inclusive, the committee ordaine Sir Robert Forbes, agent to the royall borroues, to agree with the said Sir Robert Dickson for the communication of trade to the said toun of Musleburgh, Innerask, and parioch therof, for all years bygone since Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven to Jully nixt inclusive, at the rate of tuo shilling of the taxt roll at least, yearly, and that at the sight of Sir Robert Blackuood, Sir Alexander Ogilvie and Sir James Smollet; with pouer to the said Sir Robert Forbes to wplift and receive the haill cess and missive dues imposed on and uplifted from the royall burrous since Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven till Jully nixt inclusive not below the forsaid proportion of tuo shilling Scots of the taxt roll, with the annual rents therof from the respective termes of payment; and ordanis the said Sir Robert to discharge or assigne the said Sir Robert Dickson against the toun of Musleburgh, Innerask and parioch therof for his releif; providing aluise that the said Sir Robert Forbes make just compt and reckoning to the royall burroues at their nixt generall convention for what he receives.

Agent to agree with Falkirk.

7. The committee considering that Baillie Menzies and Bailie Bouie had offered, in name of the toun of Falkirk, to releive the royall burroues of one shilling Scots of the taxt roll for ther communication of trade, and that of all years bygone since Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven to Jully nixt

inclusive, the committee ordaine Sir Robert Forbes, agent for the royall borroues, to agree with the said toun of Falkirk for the communication of trade of all years bygone since Jully j^m^ vj^c^ nynty seven to Jully nixt inclusive, at the rate of one shilling six pennes of the taxt roll; with pouer to the said Sir Robert to uplift and receave the haill bygone cess and missive dues imposed and uplifted from the royall burroues yearly for ilk of the years above exprest, conforme to the forsaid proportione of one shilling six pennes of the taxt roll, with the annual rent therof from the respective termes of payment, and to discharge or assigne the said toun of Falkirk accordingly, the said Sir Robert Forbes being aluise comptable to the royall burroues at their nixt generall conventione for what he receives. EDINBURGH. 12 June 1705. Agent to agree with Falkirk.

8. The committee appoynts Edinburgh, Hadingtoun, Dumbartoun and Bamff, or any tuo of them, Edinburgh aluise being one, as a sub-comittie to receave any offers that shall be made by wnfree traders for the comunicatione of trade and to report. Committee to receive offers.

9. The committee, upon desire of James Hamilton of Pancatland, in name of James Duke of Hamilton, do deferr to transact with the toun of Borroustounness for the communication of trade till the tuenty sixth day of June instant. Borrowstounness.

FOLLOWES her Majesties Letter to the Royall Burroues sitting at Glasgow, anno 1703. Referred to in the 12th act of convention, 1703. Her Majesties letter to the royall burroues, 26 July 1703.

Sic superscribitur: ANNE R. Right trustie and well beloved, we greet you well. Wheras we have received from the envoy of the states generall letters from the stats of Zeland and toun of Campheir complaining of the violation and infraction of the staple contract, and of the great loss and damnage sustained by the inhabitants of the said state and toun therby, and intreating we might cause enquire into the source of these abusses that the same may be redressed and rectified and the transgressors punished, and acquainting ws also that they had frequently writen to you wpon this subject, this matter relating so much to the faith of the treaties standing betuixt our ancient kingdome and that state and toun of Campheir, and of such importance to the trade and intrest of our royall burroues, and that you are in a short tyme to meet in your annuall convention at Glasgow, it is our royall pleasour that you narrouly examine your

EDINBURGH. 12 June 1705.

Her Majesties letter to the royall burroues, 26 July 1703.

commissioners sent last year to Campheir for this affair, as also the representation made by the toune of Campheir, and that you make tryall into the facts and causes of these complaints whether relating to yourselves or the said toun, and wherin or by whom our laws, your priviledges, or the treaties with the states of Zelland and toun of Campheir, have been violated or disapoynted, and that you transmitt the whole tryall to be laid befor us that we may declair our further pleasure therin since we are firmly resolved to observe that publict faith to mentain your rights and privieledges and to encourage the trade of our ancient kingdome and our laws relating therto both at home and abroad. And so we bid you heartily farewell. Given at our court at Windsor Castle, the 26 day of Jully 1703, and of our reign the second year. By her Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* DAVID NAIRN.

Act of toun counsell of Dumfreis anent admission of clerk, 6 March 1704.

FOLLOUES the ACT of the TOUN COUNSELL of DUMFREIS anent the admission of a clerk, appoynted to be recorded by the 26 act of the last generall convention holden at Glasgow wpon the fourth day of Jully 1704 years.

At Dumfreis the sixth of March j^m^ vij^c^ and four years. The magistrats and toun counsell, considering the many great inconveniencies that hitherto have and hereafter may redound to the prejudice of the good toun, magistrats and toun counsell therof, by admitting of persons to the office of toun clerkship *ad vitam aut culpam*, which admissions in favours of the persone elected are theirafter procured by them to be ratified by the burrows, they therafter (as hath been found by experience) have not demained thamselves with that deference and regard, nor did not give that attendance as became servants to the good toun, or as in gratitude wes due to the touns liberalities and benevolence to them, and otherwise have sometymes had a hand in making of parties of the counsell to the detriment and damnage therof, which should not be done by any persone intrusted in that office; therfor, for remeid therof in tyme coming, the magistrates and toun counsell of this burgh enact and ordain that after the deceis or fault of John Herries, their present clerk, no person be elected toun clerk of this burgh but *durante bene placito* allanerly, so that it shall be leisum to the magistrats and toun counsell to turn any persone out of his office of clerkship at their pleasure and to

EDINBURGH. 12 June 1705.

Act of toun counsell of Dumfreis anent admission of clerk, 6 March 1704.

put in any person they think fitt in his place, and that any clerk to be hereafter admitted obliges himself to accept of the office in these termes, and to acquiesce, submitt to, and obtemper any act of the magistrats and toun counsell, whom he is to accept as his sole judges ther exclusive of all others, exaucterating, divesting, and depriving him of the said office, without any appelatione, opposition, or contradictione whatsoever on his part, and that wnder the pain and penalty of ane thousand pounds Scots, attour performance of the premisses, which he is to oblige himself to make payment of to the toun theasaurer for the tyme in name and behalf of the then magistrats and toun counsell. And further, it is heirby enacted and declared that ilk member of the counsell who hereafter shall either vott the rescinding of this present act, or in contrair hereof, shall be *ipso facto* lyable in the sum of tuo hundred pounds for which he may be pursued either at the instance of the then present or of any the then late magistrats and counsellors of this burgh, one half thereof to be payed as aforsaid and the other half of the said tuo hundred pounds to the pursuer. And appoynts ane extract of this act to be laid befor the next generall conventione of the burroues for their approbation and ratification hereof. Extracted be ws, wndersubscriving, at the appoyntment of the said counsell, *Sic subscribitur:* ALEX. BARKLAY; WM. CORRIE.

Act of toun counsell of Dumfreis, 10 April 1704.

FOLLOWES the ACT of the TOUN COUNSELL of DUMFREIS anent the terms that any succeeding clerk is to be elected.

Conveened within the tolbuith of Dumfries, Munday the tenth day of Apryll j^{m} vij^{c} and four years, William Copland, provost; John Crosby, Alexander Barclay, and William Corrie, baillies; James Mulligan, dean; Andrew Bell, treasurer; Mr Thomas Rome and John Irving, late provosts; John Corsbet, James Dalyell, and Robert Corbet, late baillies; Robert Johnstoun, late dean; John Euart, younger, John Gilchrist, John Martin, John Kennan, John Paterson, merchants; George Mitchell, conveener; John Irving, flesher, John Jackson, weaver, John Broun, taylor, Robert Neuall, wright, deacons of craft. Anent the ouertures and articles of regulation proposed and given in to the counsell the last counsell day anent the terms on which the clerk is to be admitted, they being read the same last counsell day, and it being recomended to the magistrats, provost Rome, provost Irving, baillies John and Robert Corbets, baillie Dalzell,

EDINBURGH. 12 June 1705.

Act of toun counsell of Dumfreis anent admission of clerk, 10 April 1704.

James Bishop, John Kennan, Robert Johnston, John Martin, the conveener, [deacon] Irving, and deacon Neuall, or any five of them, to consider the same articles and either to alter the same or not and to add theirto as they thought fitt, as ane act of councill writen on the back of the articles bears, the provost in name of the committe reported to the counsell that they had mett and considered the same, and after some amendments therof they are as folloues:—1°, That besyds the holding of his office *durante bene placito*, conforme to ane late preceeding act of counsell, dated the sixth of March last, that non be capable to be elected or exerce the office of toun clerk within this burgh who are either members of or have a dependance wpon any wther inferior court or judicatur, they being incompatable or inconvenient. 2do, That the said clerk shall be obliged to serve the said toun in what properly belongs to the toun, and in gratis burges tickets at twelve shilling Scots per ticket, he furnishing all materialls for wryting, sealling, and otherwise. 3°, That no clerk exact above one shilling Scots per pound from any of the inhabitants for extract of any decreets, and in case of any exorbitancy (upon complaints) for the pryce of any other writs, the same is to be regulat by the magistrats and toun counsell. 4°, That any who is to be admited clerk be obliged to warrand and releive the toun of Dumfreis of the five pounds sterling payable yearly to Barnclugh and to report discharges therof to the toun counsell *annuatim*. 5°, That the said clerk at his entry be obliged to pay into the clerks relict, or rather to retein for the touns releif at the hands of Barnclugh, the sum of sixty pounds, Scots money, for the benefite of the registers, the wmquhill clerk, John Herries, or his author, having payed the like sum to their predicessor, and by the act of the said John Herries admission it wes provyded that his successor should pay the like sum wpon the same account, and the succeeding clerk by his admission be provyded to have the like sum repayed to him or successors by his successors in office. 6°, That non be capable to exerce the said office of clerkship within this burgh who keeps any publick house or tavern. 7°, That no succeeding clerk have pouer to appoynt or substitut deputs except in case of sickness or necessary absence, in which case he is to be known to and approven of by the magistrats and counsell. 8°, That no succeeding clerk shall buy any pleas or actions against any of the inhabitants of the burgh either by himself or any

interposed persone to his behove, or acquire any right or title which may be the ground of pleas and shall not promove pleas betuixt one burges and another or concern himself in any parties or factions. 9°, That the succeeding clerk and his successors shall receive their commissions only in those terms above writen, and *durante bene placito* as said is, and no longer nor no otherwise. And that all clerks have the above articles, with the act *durante bene placito*, insert in their act of admission, and shall be obliged to give extracts theirof to any of the magistrats or counsellors if they require the same gratis. And that the counsell appoynt the touns commissioner to the next convention of burrous to lay befor them ane extract of the act *durante bene placito* and their articles of regulation to be approven of by them; the which articles being tuise over read in audience of the counsell they all unanimously approve therof and agree therwnto, and appoynt ane extract hereof and of the act *durante bene placito* to be laid befor the next convention of burroues for their approbatione. And the counsell appoynt and assigne this day tuenty dayes for electing the next succeeding clerk, at which tyme he is to enact himself in the terms of the act *durante bene placito* and oblige himself for observance therof and of thir presents, and that he accept of his office in these termes and no wtheruise, wnder the penalty of ane thousand pounds in the termes of the said act. Extracted by me. *Sic subscribitur:* Ro. Boyd.

EDINBURGH. 12 June 1705.

Act of toun counsell of Dumfreis anent admission of clerk, 10 April 1704.

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH. 3 July 1705.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Sir Robert Blackwood, dean of gild, and William Wardrop; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, Alexander Paton; Stirling, Collonell John Erskin; Linlithgow, Walter Stewart; St Androus, Alexander Watson; Glasgow, John Anderson; Air, John Moor; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dysert, John Black; Kirkaldie, Henry Miller; Montross, Charles Ogilvie; Couper, Henry Spence; Anstruther Easter, Mr James Halson; Dumfreis, William Copland; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Burntisland, Alexander Anderson; Innerkeithing, James Dudgeon; Kinghorn, William Birrell; Brichen, James Spence; Iruing, Mr Alexander Cunningham; Jedburgh, Walter Scott; Kirkcudbright, James Gordon; Wigtoun, Simeon Gullin; Pittenweem, Mr Robert Cook; Dumfermling, John Veatch; Anstruther

EDINBURGH, 3 July 1705.

Sederunt.

Wester, William Lundie ; Selkirk, Robert Scott ; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet ; Renfreu, Collin Campble ; Dunbar, Robert Kellie ; Lanerk, William Jnglis ; Aberbrothuick, John Hutcheson ; Peebles, John Tueedy ; Craill, George Moncreif ; Tayn, Mr Eneas Macleod ; Culross, John Adam ; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie ; Whithorn, John M'Andbish ; Forfar, Charles Dickson ; Rothesay, Mr Dougall Steuart ; Nairn, John Ross ; Forras, George Brody ; Ruthglen, George Spence ; Northberuick, Archbald Lauder ; Lauder, Sir David Cunningham ; Kilrennie, James Peacock ; Annan, Mr William Johnston ; Lochmaben, Robert Robson ; Sanquhar, James Hunter ; Gallouay, John Chalmer ; Dinguall, John Tuach ; Queensferry, George Hill ; Fortrose, Daniell Simpson ; Kintoir, Robert Bruce ; Innerurie, Sir Alexander Cumming ; Inverarey, William Inglis ; Week, James Murray ; Kirkwall, David Traill ; Inverbervie, Androw Beattie ; Stranraer, Androw M'Credy ; Campbletoun, Alexander Rouatt ; Elgin, Cullen and Dornock, (*blank.*)

3 July 1705.

Preses.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Committee for revising commissions.

2. The convention approved of the commissions of certain burghs and appointed the commissioners therein named a committee to consider the other commissions and report, but the representative of Glasgow "protested against the forsaid vott in so far as concerned the commissions for the burghs of St Androis, Bamf and Lauder, inrespect their commissioners did not give their oaths that they had lands extending to the value of three thousand merks holding burgage . . . to which it wes ansuered that ther wes no need for the forsaid oath, inrespect it wes known to many of the members that the forsaids commissioners were qualified in the terms of the platform."

4 July 1705.

Commissions approven.

3. Approved of the whole commissions, and particularly that of Rothsay in favour of Mr Dougall Stewart, "albeit not exactly conforme to the plateform, seing the said Mr Dougall represented the said burgh in parliament and that the parliament wes now siting." The commissioner of Glasgow adhered to his former protest and the commissioner of Inverera also adhered.

Members qualified. Committee.

4. Oath of allegiance taken and the assurance subscribed.

5. Remitted to a committee the consideration of the missive and also of the petition given in by Colonel Erskin.

5 July 1705.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1705.

6. Continued several heads of the present missive to be heads of next general missive. Heads of missive continued

7. After voting, the convention appointed the tax roll to be altered and fixed for a period of five years. Alteration of taxt roll.

8. Remitted the article in the missive as to the factors finding caution to the committee for the staple port to be named by this convention. Factors of the staple port.

9. In compliance with petition from the burgh of Stirling, the convention authorised them to sell their lands of Bridgehaugh and the lands upon the east side of the shore causeway, being all the lands belonging to the said burgh, for paying a part of their debt. Stirling, selling lands.

6 July 1705.

10. Remitted to a committee the article of the missive anent altering the tax roll. Taxt roll.

11. Referring to their 9th act, the convention appointed a committee to see the lands sold and the price applied. Stirling.

12. Remitted to a committee several complaints against Evan M'Grigor and his partners "for making wnsufficient broad cards and imposing the same wpon the leidges, be vertue of ane pretended gift in his or copartners favours surreptitiously obtained, and charging them with horning therupon." Broad card manufactory.

13. Accepted of the resignation by Robert Steuart of his office of factor for the nation at Camphier, but delayed discharging his cautioners till next general convention that all concerned may be informed thereof. Robert Stewart, factor, resigned.

9 July 1705.

14. Anent the petition given in be Mr William Sutherland, merchant, burges of Elgin, and commissioner appoynted by some of the magistrates and a great part of the community of the said burgh, sheuing that where the animosities and divisions that hes been amongst the inhabitants of the said burgh these eight or ten years bypast, which came to processes befor the privy counsell, lords of theasury and exchequer, to the great prejudice of the place, and which has been principally occasioned by almost keeping in continually the same persones as magistrats and counsellors the forsaid space without alteration, to the generall dissatisfaction of the best part of the toun who judged the only way for setling the peace and quiet of the said toun, for the satisfaction of the inhabitants, is to Elgin.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1705. Elgin.

make a new sett in electing of the magistrats and counsell of the said burgh, and therfor craving the conventione would remitt to ane select number of the burroues to take tryall in the maters above represented, and to appoynt such remedies by reducing the burgh to a right and laufull constitutione as shall seem just, as the said petitione bears; which being considered by the conventione they [appointed certain burghs to meet at Elgin on the second Tuesday of September next to endeavour to accommodate the differences and make a sett, and to report to the convention.]

Sir John Schaw.

15. Ratified the agreement with Sir John Shaw as to the unfree trade within the parish of Greenock, and the assignation made by the agent against the rest of the parish for relief of Sir John, and remitted to the committee on unfree trade to determine as to an agreement for the future.

Act in favours of the burgh of Edinburgh.

16. The conventione taking to their serious consideratione the great and unsupportable burdens that the good toun of Edinburgh hath groaned under these severall years bypast, particularly since the generall conventione at Perth in anno j^{m} vj^{c} nynty seven, at which tyme the said toun wes heightned seven pounds six shilling eight pennes in the taxt roll, which made ther proportione fourty pounds therof, and also considering that the said good toun hath been alwayes very ready to succour and support all the other distressed burghs of this kingdome, therfor the convention, from a due sympathie and sense of the present pressing burdens of the said burgh, do unanimously agree that the samen be disburdened of five pounds of the present proportione of the taxt roll, for the space of five years from the date hereof, and it is hereby declared that for the said five years nixt to come the said burgh of Edinburghs proportione shall allenerly be thirty five pounds of the hundred pounds of the taxt roll imposed be act of parliament for the haill royall burghs of this kingdome.

Ratification, Bamf.

17. Ratified a contract and agreement between the provost, bailies, and council of Bamf, and the trades of that burgh, dated 8th October 1680, and registered in the books of council and session 7th November 1683. See page 375.

Several burghs.

18. Having considered petitions from several burghs and reports of the visitors thereto, the convention appointed their condition "to be considered whenever any fund can be fallen upon to that effect."

11 July 1705.

19. Approved of report by a committee and appointed the following tax roll "to be the setled and established rule for five years to come for collecting and ingathering the publict cess and missive dues which shall happen to be imposed upon the royall burroues":— Taxt roll.

	LIB.	S.	D.		LIB.	S.	D.
Edinburgh	35	0	0	Peebles	0	9	0
Perth	4	0	0	Craill	0	4	0
Dundie	4	0	0	Tayn	0	4	0
Aberdeen	4	18	0	Culross	0	3	0
Stirling	1	5	0	Bamf	0	4	0
Linlithgow	1	7	0	Whithern	0	1	0
St Andrews	0	7	0	Forfar	0	6	0
Glasgow	20	0	0	Rothsay	0	4	0
Air	1	1	4	Nairn	0	3	0
Hadingtoun	1	6	0	Forras	0	4	0
Dysert	0	3	0	Ruthglen	0	4	0
Kirkcaldie	1	10	2	Northberuick	0	1	0
Montross	1	13	8	Cullen	0	1	0
Couper	0	15	0	Lauder	0	5	0
Anstruther Easter	0	2	0	Kilrenny	0	1	0
Dumfreis	1	18	4	Annan	0	2	0
Inverness	1	8	6	Lochmaben	0	1	0
Burntisland	0	6	0	Sanquhar	0	1	0
Innerkeithing	0	5	0	Gallauay	0	1	0
Kinghorn	0	7	0	Dinguall	0	2	0
Brichen	0	10	0	Dornock	0	3	0
Iruing	0	10	6	Queensferry	0	8	0
Jedburgh	0	19	0	Fortrose	0	3	0
Kirkcudbright	0	6	0	Kintoir	0	1	0
Wigtoun	0	6	0	Inverurie	0	1	0
Pittenweem	0	3	0	Inverarey	0	2	0
Dumfermling	0	14	0	Week	0	4	0
Anstruther Wester	0	1	0	Kirkuall	0	12	0
Selkirk	0	10	0	Inverbervie	0	1	0
Dumbarton	0	6	0	Stranraer	0	2	0
Renfrew	0	4	0	Campbletoun	0	1	6
Dunbar	0	8	0	For unfree traders	6	0	0
Lanerk	0	12	0				
Aberbrothuick	0	10	0		100	0	0
Elgin	1	8	0				

12 July 1705.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1705.

Act in favours of Margaret Orrock.

20. Appointed the agent to pay to the relict of George Oliphant, late provost of Perth, who died abroad in the service of the burghs, £20 sterling, "in leu of all she can clame wpon account of her said deceist husbands service or any manner of way whatsoever."

Inerarey.

21. Having considered petition of Inerary, craving the convention to take their indigent case to consideration, they appointed the agent to pay to the burgh an equivalent to the present augmentation of one shilling of their proportion of the tax roll.

Burntisland.

22. Allowed the burgh of Bruntisland 500 merks Scots for repairing their harbour if it should be found that the sum formerly given was rightly applied.

Sir John Shaw, Thomas Crawford.

23, 24. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade (1) a petition by Sir John Shaw of Greenock craving the discharge of annualrent on the sums paid by him, and (2) a petition by Thomas Craufoord of Carsburn craving the convention to accept twenty pence of the tax roll for the unfree trade of his town of Crauford-dyke.

Committee, accompts.

25. Appointed a committee "to take off Sir Robert Forbes his accompts both as to the missive dues and unfree trade and report."

Committee for unfree trade and staple.

26. The convention, "considering that severalls of the burghs of barronie and regalitie and unfree traders will be willing to agree with the royall burroues for the communication of trade," appointed a committee to meet on the first Thursday of each month till next general convention to "agree with those who will make such reasonable transactions with them for ther unfree trade" from 1st July 1697 till 1 July 1706. The convention also remitted to the committee the whole affairs relating to the staple port and the complaints against the master of the old broad manufactory.

Petitions remitted to staple committee.

27. Remitted to the committee on staple affairs a petition by Alexander Clark and John Frazer, merchants in Inverness, for damages sustained by wrongous imprisonment for two months in Campheer, and also a petition by William Adam, merchant in Culross, against John Hamilton, factor in Campheer.

Superplus fund of unfree trade.

28. Considering that the present tax roll, which is to continue for five years, has been made "upon the account that some of the royall burroues are increased and others decreased in their trade, yet, inregard that befor the expiring of the saids five years the course of trade may circulat and be removed to other places," the convention resolved to receive at their annual meetings in July such representations as should be made by any of the burghs concerning the decay of their trade and to "applye the superplus fund of the wnfree trade, after Sir Robert Forbes, ther agent, is compleitly reimbursed of his wndertakings theranent, for the use and behove of the said royall burroues as they shall see cause."

Act in favours of Sir Robert Forbes.

29. The convention considering that Sir Robert Forbes, their agent, is content to relieve the burghs of £6 of the tax roll for five years yet to come, resolved

to appropriate what shall be paid in by the unfree traders to be applied towards his relief in the first place, he being accountable to the convention for what more he shall receive, and if what he receives yearly does not meet his disbursements and charges, the convention will yearly see to his effectual payment, Edinburgh not to be liable during the five years for more than £35 of the tax roll. EDINBURGH. 12 July 1705. Act in favours of Sir Robert Forbes.

13 July 1705.

30. Appointed the agent to disburse what sums the lord provost of Edinburgh shall find to be necessary in the affair anent Evan M'Grigor or any other affair of the royal burghs. Disbursements.

31. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade to consider what gratification shall be given to Sir Robert Forbes and his servant. Agent and his servant.

32. Remitted a petition by the burgh of Kirkwall to the committee on unfree trade. Kirkwall.

33. Appointed the condition of Perth and eleven other burghs to be considered by next general convention. Perth, etc.

34. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade petition for relief by the burgh of Fortrose, which "wes in a very decayed conditione, and inrespect therof might reasonably have expected ane ease of the taxt roll, yet to their great surprize they had one shilling Scots added to their former proportione therof." Fortross.

35. The conventione upon several complaints made to them against the tacksmen of the dues of the lights of the May, their collectors and servants, for exacting the said dues in the summer tym contrair to law, do remitt to the committe anent the staple port and unfree trade to sit after disolving of this present conventione to enquire into the verrity of these complaints and fall upon some effectual means for redressing therof in tyme coming, and for that effect ordains the agent to advance money as the committe shall find necesar. Dues of the lights of May.

36. Anent ane petitione given in to the convention be the magistrats and counsell of the burgh of Forfar representing ane great ryott committed by severall neighbouring gentlemen upon the magistrats of the said burgh at the cross and upon the High Street therof, and that the poverty of the burgh wes such that they could not afford money to prosecute the said ryott as the samen required, to the honour of the royall borroues in generall and the magistrates of the said burgh in particular, do remitt to the committe anent the staple and unfree trade to sitt after the dissolving of this present conventione to enquire into the said ryott and assist the Forfar, ryott.

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1705.

Forfar, ryott.

saids magistrats to prosecut the same as they shall see cause, and ordains the agent to advance money for that effect as the committe shall think fitt.

Agents accompts.

37. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1704 to July 1705, extending to £11,306, 10s. 8d. Scots.

Accompts, unfree trade.

38. On report of the committee appointed to audit the agent's account with the money paid by the unfree burghs for their bygone trade from July 1697 to July 1705, appointed to be applied towards payment of the proportion of £5 of the tax roll from July 1704 to July 1705, the convention found that he had paid £3600 Scots of cess to her Majesty's depute receiver and £600 Scots of missive dues; and that he has received from the town and parish of Weems £446, 8s. 7d. and from Sir John Shaw of Greenock £3125, 0s. 1d. Scots; leaving £628, 11s. 4d. due to the agent, which is to be allowed to him out of what he shall afterwards receive from unfree traders.

Inverbervie.

39. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Inverbervie and report as to their common good and trade.

Conservator.

40. Remitted a petition by the conservator to the committee anent the staple affairs and unfree trade.

Gordon, factor at Camphier.

41. Remitted to the same committee a petition by William Gordon, late factor at Camphier, showing that in 1693 "he had received a part of the vaccant steepand due to the minister at Camphier, and by order of Sir Androw Kennedy, conservator, did pay the same out towards the repairing of the Scots church at Camphier, and therfor craving to be exonered therof and to be free from all trouble and molestation upon that account."

Sir Alexander Cummings gift produced.

42. Sir Alexander Cumming of Coulter, advocat, having produced to the conventione ane gift under the great seall, making and constituting him her Majesties resident and conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, with ane leter from her Majestie direct to them relative therto, both which being read in convention, and the leter appoynted by them to be recorded in the burrou books after dissolving of the conventione, the said Sir Alexander Cumming therupon took instruments in the clerks hands, and Sir Andrew Kennedy protested that the reading or receiving of the said Sir Alexander Cumming's commissione might be without prejudice of his standing gift and without prejudice of his plea of declarator, reduction, and improbation depending befor the lords of counsell and sessione, and therupon also took instruments; all which being considered by the convention they remitted the same to the staple committe, recomending to the said committe to wryt ane ansuer to her

Majesties gracious leter in relatione therto; and sicklyke remitts to the said committe to considder the leter from the magistrats of Camphier and return ane answer therto. EDINBURGH. 13 July 1705.

43. Ordained the agent to pay to the burgh of Lochmaben £100 Scots "for building and repairing ther tolbuith;" as also to Neugallauay £40, to Stranraer £40, and to Sanquhar £40, "in consideration of the low and decayed condition of the saids burghs." Lochmaben, Neugalloway, Stranraer and Sanquhar.

44. Appointed the agent to pay certain salaries and gratuities to the clerks, servants and others. Sallaries and gratuities.

45. Remitted to the committee anent the staple port and unfree trade, a petition by John Allerdice, merchant in Campheir, to be admitted a staple factor there. John Alerdice.

46. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1706. Act of adjournment.

47. Fined each absent burgh, except Cullen which was excused, in the sum of 1000 merks Scots. Absent burghs fined.

[The letter by the lord provost of Edinburgh to Lord Duffus, provost of Elgin, intimating the 14th act of the preceding general convention, is here recorded.]

CONTRACT and AGREEMENT between the Provost, Bailies, and Council of Bamf, and the Trades thereof, appointed to be recorded by the 17th act of the preceding General Convention. Contract and agreement between town council and trades of Bamf, 8 October 1680.

At Bamf, the eight day of October j^{m} vj^{c} and eighty years, it is appointed, contracted, and finally agreed wpon betuixt the parties following, to witt, Walter Stewart, present provost of the burgh of Bamf, John and George Gordons, William Fife and Robert Sanders, baillies of the said burgh, Alexander Wallace, dean of gild, William Simm, theasurer, Thomas Ogilvie, late provost of the said burgh, Peter Barclay, Thomas Poplay, William Cruckshank, James Ogilvie, Peter Sim, John Andrew, Robert Turner, Alexander Craig, John Denoon, present counsellers of the said burgh, for themselves and in name and behalf of the remanent communitie of the gildrie of the samen for the tyme and their successors, on the ane part; and Robert Turner, couper, James, Walter, and William Grays, shomakers, John, James, and George Lovies, carpenters, Thomas Wrquhart, couper, James Fife, taillor, James Allan, wright, John Duffus,

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1705.

Contract and agreement between town council and trades of Bamf, 8 October 1680.

wright, Alexander Gordon, wright, Robert Smith, hammerman, burgesses, ther, Peter Hay, hammerman, burges, ther, Alexander Smith, couper, burges, ther, Andrew and John Eliesses, weavers, ther, William Ellies, weaver, burges, ther, John Fife, taillor, burges, ther, John Gordon, hammerman, burges, ther, John Murray, shoemaker, burges, ther, William Strachan, shoemaker, burges, ther, William Grant, taillor, ther, Walter Lourie, weaver, ther, George Morison, weaver, burges, ther, Alexander Monroe, glover, burges, ther, George Joss, William, George, and William Pett, shoemakers, burgesses, ther, George Smith, couper, burges, ther, Alexander Walker, weaver, burges, ther, for themselves and remanent tradsmen of the said burgh of Bamf for the tyme being and their successors, being alwayes inhabitants within the said burgh, on the other part; that is to say:—Forsomeikle as the saids [provost, bailies, and council] taking to their serious consideratione ane bill and supplicatione presented to them be the saids tradsmen above writen, for themselves and in name and behalf of their forsaids, humbly desireing that the saids magistrats and counsell would be pleased to take nottice of the articles therewith presented to them, and that accordingly they might be alloued to them and their successors in all tyme therafter, since they were rather desireous to obtain the saids articles amicablie from the saids magistrats and counsell themselves then utherwayes, and how that the greatest happiness and cheifest felicity of the body of ane community principally consists in the unity and peace amongst the concitizens of the said community, and that ther can be no such unitie nor perfect peace within the said burgh of Bamf or community therof whill the tradsmen and artificers thereof (who are upon many accounts most necessary members of the said community) are disunit and disjoined from the said body, therfor and for shuning and eviting of all contraversies, debates, and actions of law that are already intended or may be intended for or pretended to, be the severall crafts, tradsmen, and artificers of the said burgh, anent any priviledges they or either of them for the tyme being or their successors supposes or may suppose themselves to have right and clame to, and for giving that due encouragement to them as becometh, and in preferance of peace and for preserving that united concord, unitie, and good neighbourhead amongst them that are concitizens as becomes them in their stations as loyall subjects to their Soveraigne Lord and lovers of the peace

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1705.

Contract and agreement between town council and trades of Banff, 8 October 1680.

to do, they for themselves, their present counsell and community of the gildrie, and their successors, do grant and allow, and be thir presents grants and allowes to the saids tradsmen, crafts and artificers, and their successors, the freedome, priviledges, and immunities underwriten, petitioned and sought for in the said supplicatione, whereof the tenor followes:—Imprimis, that six trades, every trade being aluise a quorum of five at the least, shall have freedome, pouer, and liberty to choise their oun respective deacons, and their saids deacons so chosen shall have pouer to choise ane deacon conveener in presence of ane of the saids magistrats for the tyme being or their successors. Item, they allow the saids wholl deacons so chosen, with their conveener, to be present and have six votts at the laying on of all stents and impositions which shall happen to be imposed upon the said burgh, and that they shall sitt upon the saids rer-accompts therof. Item, they allow the saids trads three votts of seventeen as to the electione of the magistrats, and if the counsell consist of more than the number of seventeen then and in that case the saids magistrats and counsel alloues the trades the number of four votts at the electione. Item, they allou that two of the deacons shall be alwayes upon the counsell, the deacon conveener being aluayes one of the tuo, and that they allou the saids trads the merchandising of all countrey commodities within this kingdome during the continuance of the act of parliament, and to that effect, they being aluayes freemen of thir trade and burgesses of the said burgh, and shoemakers, the buying and bringing home of lether. Which freedome, priviledges, and immunities above writen, as the grant of the said supplicatione, and for the reasons and causes forsaids, be thir presents, the saids Robert Turner [and others above named,] for themselves and remanent tradsmen of the said burgh and their forsaids, accept and by thir presents accepts as their proper priviledges, as members of the said community in all tyme coming, and discharges all clames and law suits in the contrair, and also be thir presents they bind and oblige them and their forsaids to give all due reverence and obedience to their magistrats, present and to come, as becomes peaceable citizens to do, and to be lyable and subject in watching and warding and other dueties of that nature not repugnant to this present contract and agreement as at any tyme heretofor, and as is the custome of other burghs. Lykeas the saids trads obliges them that upon advertisement from the magistrats the

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1705.

Contract and agreement betwen town council and trades of Bamf, 8 October 1680.

deacon of each trade shall conveen their incorporatione in such armour as they have for defending the saids magistrats in their persons and priviledges of the place in case they be invaded; and because that heretofor the publict appearances and shews made be the saids trades were esteemed irregular be the saids magistrats, and particularly upon the twenty eight day of May last, therfor the saids haill trads binds and obliges them and their forsaids in all tyme coming not to convocat or raise in armes at any publick show when any solemnitie shall occurr, or otherwise, without they be ordered be the saids magistrats and counsell and successors for that effect, and that under the pain of every one of the saids tradsmen that shall raise so in armes or invitt or persuade any other of their fellow tradsmen to any such convocatione shall not only lose and amitt the benefitt of the premises but also shall forfault their burgesship of the said burgh, promising *hinc inde* to hold firme and stable the premisses; and that the samen may stand for a perpetuall law within the said burgh of Bamf in all tyme coming both the saids parties are content thir presents be ratified and approven in the first parliament that shall happen to sitt within this kingdome, and are further content and consents thir presents be insert and registrat in the books of counsell and sessione, toun court books of Bamf, or any other judges books competent within this kingdome, therin to remaine *ad futuram rei memoriam.*

Her Majesties letter to the royall burrowes, 7 April 1705.

FOLLOUES her Majesties letter to the Royall Burroues, appointed to be recorded by the 42d act of the preceding General Convention.

Sic superscribitur: ANNE, R.

Trusty and well beloved, we greet you well. We wrott to yow formerly concerning some complaints that had been made to us by the states of Zeland and toun of Campheer, and by the envoy of the states of Holland, of the violations and infringments of the staple contract and of the great loss and damnage sustained by the inhabitants of the said state and toun, thereby desireing you to examin the report of your commissioners sent the year befor to Campheer for enquiring into that affair and adjusting differences, and likewise to consider the representatione made by the toun of Campheer, and by reason our laws, their priviledges, or the treaties with the states of Zeland and toun of Campheer, have been violated or disappoynted, in order to have these

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1705.

Her Majesties letter to the royall burrows, 7 April 1705.

abuses rectified and redressed and the transgressors punished; to which letter we received ane answer by your committee appoynted for that purpose wherin they referr us to the report of these commissioners which ye sent over and other papers relating therto; and it appearing plainly to us that the violations and infractions made of the staple contract and the bad consequences therof have proceeded from the misbehaviour and malversations of Sir Andrew Kennedy of Cloburn and John Veir Kennedy, his son, we have thought fitt to lay them aside, and have nominated and appointed Sir Alexander Cuming, a person well recomended to us as fitt and qualified for that office, who we hope will be very acceptable to you, and we further desire that no disput that may arise in relatione to the commissione which we have granted in favours of Sir Alexander Cuming may be any impediment or delay to your giveing him all the encouragement possible upon your part, and that you will receive him with such chearfulnes as may enable him to be the more serviceable touards the firm observance of the publick faith, the promoting of the trade and manufactur of our ancient kingdome, and the preserving your rights and priviledges and the laws relating therto, which we are firmly resolved to maintain as wee are to discountenance all that have been any impediment or occasione of the breach therof; and so wee bid you heartily fare well. Given at our court at St James's, the 7th day of Apryll 1705, and of our reign the fourth year. By her Maiesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* AL. WEDDERBURN.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE anent Unfree Trade, *held at* EDINBURGH.

2 August 1705.

EDINBURGH. 2 August 1705. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Sir Robert Blackwood; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Montrose, James Scott; Dumbarton, Sir James Smolet. (Fifteen burghs *blank*.)

Presses.

1. The lord provost of Edinburgh elected preses.

Leaven, Dunce.

2, 3. The committee accepted the offers of the towns of Leaven and Dunce whereby each of them agreed to relieve the royal burghs of eight pence of the tax roll, for the communication of trade, for each year from July 1697 to July 1706; and authorised the agent to uplift and discharge their proportions of the cess and missive dues imposed on the royal burghs for that period.

EDINBURGH. 6 September 1705.

6 September 1705.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, Sir Robert Blackwood; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Air, John Moor; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie. (Sixteen burghs *blank*.)

Preses. 1. The lord provost of Edinburgh elected preses.

Aberdeen. 2. Having considered a letter from Bailie Cattinoch, Aberdeen, "acknowledging that severall of ther burgers were taxt by them for their trade in the old toun of Aberdeen," the committee appointed the agent "to proceed against the said old toun for their unfree trade, inregard ther is no reason for the old touns being stented by the new toun."

Couper in Angus. 3. There having been offered by Couper in Angus "ten guinnies for their wnfree trade for all years bygone preceeding Jully last, and to releive the royall burrowes according to the proportion of twelve pennies Scots of the taxt roll for the communicatione of trade to the said toun from the said first of Jully last to the first of Jully next," the committee authorised the agent to agree with the town at the rate of 1s. of the tax roll for each year from July 1697 to July last, and 1s. 8d. Scots from 1st July last to 1st July next, and to proceed against them if they refuse to comply.

Dalkeith. 4. Appointed the agent to proceed against the town of Dalkeith for their unfree trade untill they agree with the committee at the rate of 5s. 6d. of the tax roll yearly.

Stonhive. 5. Ordained the agent to grant assignation to the town of Stonhive against unfree traders in the shire of Kincardine for relief to that town of their proportion of the tax roll.

Dinnikier, Linkstoun, and Auchtermuchtie. 6-8. Agreed for the communication of trade to the town of Dinnikier on relieving the burghs of one penny yearly in the tax roll; to the town of Linkstoun and landward parishes of Abbotshall and Kinghorn, on relieving the burghs of sixpence yearly in the tax roll; and to the town of Auchtermughty and adjacent parishes of Colless, Obti, and Monymaill on relieving the burghs of sixpence in the tax roll.

10 September 1705.

Elli. 9. Agreed with the town of Elli for the communication of trade on relieving the burghs at the rate of 1s. 6d. Scots yearly in the tax roll.

6 December 1705.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, Sir Samuell M'Lellan; Stirling, John Erskin; Hadingtoun, David Forrest; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Montross, William Coutts; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie. (Sixteen burghs *blank*).

EDINBURGH. 6 December 1705.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Preses.

2. Appointed the agent to proceed against the inhabitants of "the burghs of Leven, Couper of Angus, Dunce, Auchtermuchtie, and Elli, with whom the committie had formerly made ane agreement for the communication of trade," unless they pay annualrent from the respective terms of payment and their proportion of the missive dues.

Annual rent missive dues.

3. Appointed the name of William Johnston, indweller in Niddrie, to be delete from amongst the unfree traders, and the agent to desist further executione against him.

William Johnston.

11 December 1705.

Agreements with several towns.

4-17. Agreed with the towns aftermentioned for the communication of trade to them on their relieving the royal burghs of the following sums in the tax roll, viz., (4) Doun, two pence yearly from July 1697 to July 1705, and sixpence from July 1705 to July 1706; (5) Frazersburgh, 1s. 8d. yearly from July 1697 to July 1705, and 2s. from July 1705 to July 1706; (6) Kilmarnock, 1s. yearly from July 1697 to July 1705, and 1s. 8d. from July 1705 to July 1706; (9) Coldstream, 3d. yearly from July 1697 to July 1706; (10) Falkirk (notwithstanding the act of 12 June last), 1s. yearly from July 1697 to July 1706; (11) Kelsoe, 2s. yearly from July 1697 to July 1706; (15) Dalkeith, 2s. yearly from July 1697 to July 1706; (16) Old Meldrum, 9d. yearly, discharging bygones, "the said toun having had no forraigne trade since 1697;" and (17) Borrowstounness, £100 sterling for their unfree trade from July 1697 to July 1705, and relieving the burghs of 6s. Scots in tax roll yearly from July 1705 to July 1706.

Fortrose.

7. Agreed to relieve the burgh of Fortrose of all cess and missive dues from July 1705 to July 1706, effeiring to the augmentation upon them of 1s. Scots in the tax roll.

Fraserburgh.

8. Ordained the agent to write to Lord Saltoun, informing him of the agreement with Fraserburgh, "and that now the said toun is wnder the protection of the royall burrows and so not to be disturbed in the enjoyment of their trade in tyme coming."

Doun, Fraserburgh.

12. Granted warrant to the agent to assign the sums receivable under the agreements with Doun and Fraserburgh to any person who shall make punctual payment to him.

Report anent outrig of the frigots and birlines.

13. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, reported to the committy that the Earle of Glasgow, lord thesaurer deput, and the lords of the theasury, expected the royall burrows, conforme to ane minut the last session of parliament, dated the eight of September last, should out-

EDINBURGH. 11 December 1705.

rig the frigots and tuo birlines with all conveniencie, wpon their lordships assigning to them so much of the moneths cess laid on for that end as should be depursed by them in that affair, which being considered by the commite they were of opinion that their commission being restricted to the affaires of the staple port and wnfree trade could not dip into the said matter, but withall recomended to the said lord provost, Sir Alexander Ogilvie, and Sir Samuel M'Clellan, dean of gild, to acquaint the lords of the theasury therof, and Sir Robert Forbes to consider the act of parliament.

Report anent outrig of the frigots and birlines.

21 December 1705.

Commission, Aberden.

14. Robert Stewart, one of the bailies of Aberdeen, produced a commission empowering him to represent that burgh, which was approved of.

Report, outriging the frigots, etc.

18. The lord provost having againe reported to the committe that the earle of Glasgow, lord thesaurer deput, enquired of him what ansuer they would give to the lords of theasury in relatione to the burrows outriging the friggots and berlines, to which it wes ansuered that the said affair exceeded their commissione, neither did they look wpon the burrows as bound by the act of parliament to make the advance of what money should be necessar for the said outrig, but with all they recomended to the said lord provost, Sir Samuell M'Clellan, and Sir Alexander Ogilvie, to meet with Captain Gordon and those concerned with the birlines and the commissaries of the armie to trye what might be done effectually in the said matter, and to report to the lords of the treasury what should be the result of the said meeting.

7 February 1706.

Sederunt.

(Twenty-two burghs, *blank*.)

Presos.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Her Majesties letter for outrigging the Royall William.

2. The same day, wes presented to the committe ane extract of a letter from her Majestie to the lords of her thesaurie anent the outrigging the ship, the Royall William, wherof the tenor followes:—*Ut suprascribitur:* ANNE, R. Right trustie, [etc.,] wee greet yow well. Wheras our parliament, last session, gave a fund for outrigging our ship the Royall William,

and ordered that the royall burrowes should outrigg the friggots with all conveniencie, and recomended to the lords of our theasury to assigne so much to them of the said fund as shall be debursed by them for that end, notwithstanding of which order of parliament, wee are informed that the royall burrowes do decline to advance what money is necessary for the said purpose, and we taking into our royall consideratione how necesar it is for securing of trade that the said ship be speedily outrigged and sent to sea, and that seeing the royall burrowes, as being the chief traders, will reap the greatest benefite therby, we think it most just and reasonable that they should advance what money is necessary for that effect in pursueance of the order of parliament, therfor it is our will and pleasure, and we hereby authorize and require yow, to call the royall burrows and signifie this our pleasure to them, and that we expect their ready complyance therwith, and on their so doing yow are to assigne them to so much of the moneths supply granted be the parliament for the said use as shall be debursed by them for that end, but if they refuise yow are to acquaint us therwith that we may give such farder orders as are necessary theranent; for doing of which this shall be your warrand, and so we bid yow heartily farewell. Given at our court at St Jameses, the thirty one day of January $170\frac{5}{6}$, and of our reign the fourth year. By her Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* MAR. Which being considered by the committe, they were unanimously of opinione the calling of a generall conventione wes not absolutly necessar, and that it would be acceptable service to the royall burrowes to save them the trouble and expence of meeting on that occasione, but in obedience to her Majesties commands, and also considering that it wes the interest of the natione, and the royall burrows in particular, the trade of the natione should be secured, they were also unanimously of opinion that a consideration or premium should be given by the royall burrows to those who would advance the summs necessar upon the said account, for the which premium the royall burrows should be bound, and for their reimbursement they are to be assigned by the lords of theasury to so much of the moneths cess laid on for that effect as shall be advanced by them; and apoynts the burghs of Edinburgh, Stirling, Kirkcaldie, Montross, Dumbarton and Bamf, as a sub-committe, to call Captain Gordon and make a computation what money may be necessar to be advanced upon the said account and to comone with the

EDINBURGH. 7 February 1706.

Her Majesties letter for outrigging the Royall William.

EDINBURGH. 7 February 1706.

comissars of the army or any other persons who will be willing to advance the saids summs anent the consideratione they expect from the royall burrows for ther said advance and report to the committe.

9 February 1706.

Act for advancing money anent outrigg of the Royall William.

3. The committe having heard and considered the report made to them by Sir Samuell M'Clellan, ane of the commissars of the army, anent the advancing of what money shall be requisit for outrigging the Royall William and keeping her at cruising for some tyme, as alse having called Captain Gordon, commander of the said ship, anent the said affair, the committe finds that ther must be presently advanced the summ of two thousand pounds sterling for outrigging of the said ship and victualling therof and keeping of her at cruising untill Whitsonday nixt, and that ther must be the sum of three hundred and fifty pounds money forsaid advanced at Whitsonday for supplying the said ship untill Lambes, and seeing the saids commissars are willing to advance the said money, as also to give ther credit for the sum of eight hundred pounds money forsaid or therby, which is to be trusted till Mertimass, and that upon the lords of the theasury ther granting assignatione to the commissars of so much of the monthes cess laid on by the late act of parliament payable at Mertimass next as will reimburse the comissars of the aforsaid summs, but in the mean tyme in respect the comissars must borrow money and lye out of the samen untill the fund of cess be brought in, and that therfor it is just and reasonable ther should be alloued to the comissars a suitable reward for such a seasonable advance, and the committe thinking it their duty to give obedience to her Majesty's letter produced to them for giving their assistance to the outrigging of the said Royall William, as also considering it the great interest of the haill royall burrows and particularly of the northern burrows to have ther coasts protected and their trade defended from priviteers, therfor they do unanimously agree and engage themselves in name and behalf of the royall burrows to pay to the saids comisars the summ of ten pounds sterling for each hundred pounds sterling they shall advance in manner above writen in name of reward and premium for the said advance, and that betwixt the date hereof and the term of Mertimas next to come.

20 February 1706.

EDINBURGH. 20 February 1706.

Sederunt.

(Twenty-two burghs *blank*.)

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Referring to the act of 9th instant, the committee, "in order to the finishing of the said affair do recomend to the saids lords of thesury to assigne the saids comissars in and to as much of the said moneths cess as shall be advanced by them in the terms of the said act, notwithstanding that the minuts of parliament bear that ther lordships should grant the said assignatione in favours of the royall burrows." Recomendation favor of commissars of army.

3. Accepted the offer of Prestonpanns of £100 sterling for ther unfree trade from July 1697 to July last and to relieve the burghs of 5s. Scots of the tax roll from July 1705 to July 1706. Prestonpanns.

4. Accepted the offer of Ferry Partoncraigs to relieve the burghs of 3d. Scots of the tax roll yearly for the communication of trade to that town from July 1697 to July 1705 and of 4d. Scots of the tax roll from July 1705 to July 1706. Ferry Partoncraigs.

5. Referring to the 27th act of the general convention in July 1704 and to the remit by last general convention to the staple committee to consider what gratuity should be allowed to Gilbert Steuart for his pains in pursuing the transgressors of the staple port, they authorised the agent to pay him £25 sterling "in satisfactione of all that he can ask or crave of the royall burrows for annualrent, his pains and trouble, or otherwise in the said affair." Gilbert Steuart.

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1706.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Warrender and Henry Hamilton; Perth, Alexander Robertson; Aberdeen, Robert Steuart; Stirling, Colonel John Arskin; Linlithgow, Adam Bunkley; Glasgow, John Aird; Air, John Moor; Haddington, Richard Miller; Dysert, John Black; Kirkcaldie, Henry Miller; Montrose, Charles Ogilvie; Anstruther Easter, James Graham; Dumfries, William Copland; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Burntisland, Alexander Andersone; Innerkeithing, James Dudgeon; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, James Spence; Irving, George Monroe; Jedburgh, Walter Scott; Kirkcudbright, Hugh Fullerton; Pittenueem, Mr Robert Cook; Dumfermling, John Veitch; Anstruther Wester, Henry Bettie; Selkirk, Robert Scott; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Renfrew, Mr John Cochran; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Lanark, William Inglis; Aberbrothuick, John Hutchesone; Elgin, Robert Innes; Peebles, John Tueedy; Craill, John Bethun; Culross, John Adam; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Forfar, Charles Dickson; Forras, Alexander Brody; Ruthglen, John Scott; Cullen, Colonel Patrick Ogilvie; Lauder, Sir David Cuningham; Kilrenny, James Pea-

EDINBURGH. 2 July 1706. Sederunt. cock ; Annan, Mr William Johnston ; Lochmaben, Robert Robson ; Neugallouay, William M'Courtie ; Queensferry, John Hill ; Fortrose, Mr Rhodrick M'Kenzie ; Kintoir, Robert Bruce ; Inverurie, John Ferguson ; Week, James Murray ; Campletoun, Donald Clark. (Sixteen burghs *blank*.)

2 July 1706.

Presses. 1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected presses.

Revising commissions. 2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

3 July 1706.

Commissions approven. 3. Having received report of the committee, the convention approved of the whole commissions except those of New Galloway and Campbletoun, both of which want the town's seal, "but dispences with the defects therof for this time."

Members qualified. 4. Oath of allegiance taken and assurance subscribed.

Address to her Majestie. 5. Appointed a committee to "prepare the draught of ane address to be presented to her Majestie and report."

Comitie. 6. Appointed a committee to consider the heads of the missive and whatever else shall be remitted to them.

4 July 1706.

Draught of ane address approven. 7. The convention having heard and considered the draught of ane address to be presented to her Majestie brought in by the commite appoynted for that effect, they unanimously approved thereof and ordained the same to be recorded, wherof the tennor follows :—May it please your Majestie. We your Majesties most dutyfull and loyall subjects, the representatives of your Majesties royall burroues of this your ancient kingdome of Scotland, in conventione assembled, humbly beg leave to congratulat your sacred Majestie upon the great and glorious successes obtained by your conquering armes in the Netherlands under the wise conduct of your valiant and victorious generall the duke of Marleburrough, and upon these other great advantages gained in Spain by the earles of Peterburrow and Gallouay, at the same time we do in all duty acknowledge the great and signall blessings we enjoy under your Majesties most happy and glorious reign by reaping the advantages of a

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1706.

Draught of ane address approven.

tranquil peace whill many other nations suffer under the sadd consequences of a dreadfull warr. To curb the insolence and reduce the exorbitant pouer of ane faithless monarch and rescue the sinking empire from imminent danger, and when upon the brink of ruine and confusione to recover kingdomes from ane usurper and restore the same to their lawfull prince; to defeat, and that with feuer numbers, armies (impiously boasted to be invincible) are actions which future ages will admire and non befor your sacred Majestie could pretend to. Allow us, great Sovereigne, with the rest of Christendome to rejoyce and stand astonished at these great conquests which attend your Majesties victorious forces and which Heaven is pleased to bestow as a return of your Majesties examplar piety and goodness, wherby we have all ground to hope that the usurping French monarch shall be rendered wncapable any more to disturb the quiet of Europe or persecut the protestant interest therin and unavoidably to acknouledge his error in not ouning your Majesties just right to the crown of Brittaine. Goe on, unparalelled Princess, and we shall still wish and pray that your Majestie may live long and reign gloriously, triumphing victoriously over all your enemies, and reigning in the hearts and affections of your people, that your Majestie may still hold the ballance of Europ, that victory and conquest may still attend your forces by sea and land, that the protestant interest at home and abroad may flourish and be furder confirmed by the wisdome of your royall counsells and the admirable success of your conquering armes, and that your Majestie may be the glorious instrument of uniting your tuo kingdomes of Scotland and England in a more strict and firm union, to the advantage of both nations in their religious and civil concerns, as we firmly believe to be the duty of, may it please your Majestie, your Majesties most loyall and most obedient subjects and servants. Signed by the wholl members of the conventione.

As to presenting of address.

8. The convention recomended to Sir Samuel M'Clellan, dean of gild of Edinburgh, their preses, to writ in name of the conventione to his grace the duke of Queensberry, lord commissioner to the ensueing sessione of parliament, my lord chancellor, tuo secretaries of state, and to my lord provost of Edinburgh, to whom they desire him to recomend the presenting of their said address in name of the royall burrows, and to send doubles of their said address inclosed; as also to writ to my lord presi-

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1706.

dent of the sessione and such other of the members of the royall burrows as are at London to be present at presenting the same.

Heads of missive continued, charter to Elli.

9. On report of the committee to whom the consideration of the missive was remitted, the convention continued several articles to be heads of next general missive. With reference to the stopping of gifts and monopolies the agent reported that "Lord Anstruther had presented in parliament a chartor wnder the great seall, granting to the burgh of Elli all the immunities and priviledges belonging to a burgh royall, desiring the same might be ratified in parliament which wes done accordingly, wherupon Sir Robert Forbes, their said agent, at the desire of the lord provost of Edinburgh protested in name and behalf of the royall burrowes that the same might be but prejudice of the priviledges and immunities granted to burghs royall."

Steuart's cautioners.

10. Discharged the cautioners of Robert Stuart, late factor at Campvere, of their cautionary obligations.

Royall William.

11. Approved of the proceedings of the committee in regard to the outrigging of the Royall William.

Air. *Vide* the 40 act.

12. Appointed the agent to concur with the magistrates of Ayr in defending their process, "it being a generall concern of all the royall burrows."

Jedburgh.

13. Having considered a petition from the burgh of Jedburgh, "representing the miserable condition of the said burgh and the great divisions and animosities amongst their inhabitants," the convention appointed a committee to meet at Jedburgh to endeavour to compose the differences and to inquire into the condition of the burgh and report.

Kirkcudbright.

14. Having considered petition by the burgh of Kirkcudbright, "representing the great divisions and animosities amongst their inhabitants," the convention appointed a committee to meet there and endeavour to compose the differences and inquire into the condition of the burgh and report.

5 July 1706.

Differences betuixt Forras and Durn.

15. Having considered a petition by the burgh of Forras, "showing that wher Sir William Dunbar of Durn and James Dunbar, younger therof, had intented tuo actions befor the lords of counsell and sessione against them, the one for a pretended wrongous imprisonment, the other a declarator for declaring some temple lands within the burgh, holding of the Earle of Haddingtoun, wherof they are proprietars, not to be subject to the touns jurisdictione, which wes a thing of great importance to the wholl burrowes," the convention appointed a committee to endeavour to compose the differences.

Clark and Fraser's cases.

16. Remitted to next general convention petition by Alexander Clark and

John Fraser, merchants in Inverness, as to damages sustained by them through wrongous imprisonment in Campvere some years ago. EDINBURGH. 5 July 1706.

17. "Anent the petition given in by the toun of Brichen, sheuing the mein and low circumstances of the said burgh wpon many accounts and particularly because the Earle of Panmuir, who hath the nomination of ane of the baillies of the said burgh, doth endeavour to oblige the inhabitants of the said burgh to ansuer befor his deput as justiciar and constable therof and to apply his fines for his oun wse, albeit by ane contract, in the year j^{m} vj^{e} and thirty six, betuixt the earles predicessors and the toun, all differences were removed and his lordship alloued the nominatione of one of the baillies who wes to act as justiciar ther, and ever since that time the fynes and emoluments were applied for the behove of the toun," the convention appointed a committee to wait on the Earl of Panmuir to endeavour to compose the difference, and in the event of failure authorised the committee to be named for the staple and unfree trade to determine what should be done. Brichen, Earl of Panmuir.

18. Appointed the burghs of Elgin, Nairn, and Fortrose to visit the burgh of Invernes and endeavour to settle as to encroachments by adjacent heritors whereby the inhabitants are "interrupted in the commonty and carying home peets and feuell conforme to use and wont and their original rights." Inverness.

19. Anent the petition given in be Sir Androw Kennedy, conservator, sheuing that wher he hes been detained in this kingdome by defending himself in the just possessione of his office against Sir Alexander Cumming of Coulter which hath cost him great expense. and having now prevailled is resolved to go to Campvere; and seeing the toun of Campvere hath failled in not sending convoyes for the benefit of trade in this natione craving therfor the convention would lay their commands wpon him in relation to the staple and royall burrowes, and that they would be pleased to writ to the toun of Campvere desiring that convoyes may be sent at such seasonable times as the petitioner should demand, [the convention appointed a committee] to consider the poynts of the said petition and particularly to wryt to the magistrats of Campvere desiring them to send convoyes for the benefit of the trade of the natione in the termes of the staple contract. Conservator, convoyes.

20. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Queensferry and report as to its condition, "particularly the herbour and difference of impositiones." Queensferry.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

8 July 1706.

Dumfreis.

21. Appointed a committee "to repair to Dumfreis in order to compose the differences betuixt the said burgh and the heretors of the countrey paroch therof anent the division of the kirk."

Impositione on ail and bear.

22. Recommended those commissioners who are members of parliament "to assist the burghs of Dundie, Dysert, Kirkaldie, or such other burghs as shall make applicatione to the parliament for procuring ane impositione of tuo pennies wpon the pint of ail and bear."

Week.

23. Appointed the commissioner from Week to give in to the agent a list of the unfree traders in Thurso.

Ratification of a charter by Elgin.

24. Ratified and approved "ane dispositione and chartor of ane useless piece of ground neer to the burgh of Elgin called the Cattaills, disponed by the magistrats and toun counsell of Elgin to William Paull and David Brymmer, burgesses ther, to be holden few of the said burgh," dated 13th July 1703; and authorised the burgh to expose to roup a rood and a half of land and apply the price for payment of the town's debts.

Kirkwall, Queensferry.

25, 26. Remitted petitions by the burghs of Kirkwall and Queensferry to the committee for unfree trade which is to meet after the dissolving of this convention.

Petitions to be considered.

27. Anent the petitions given in be the burghs followig, viz.:— Air, Kirkcaldie, Ruthglen, Jedburgh, Dumfermling, Dysert, Forres, Innerkeithing, Kinghorn, Lanerk, Selkirk, Enster Wester, Kirkudbright and Peebles, the convention finds that at present trade is in a great decay and the condition of the royall burrows very low, and the granting of a gratuity to one burgh is the burdening of the rest, and that now the conventione hes not tyme seriously to consider the saids petitions, therfor the conventione do recomend to the committy anent unfree trade and the staple port to sit after disolving of this present convention to take the saids petitions to their consideratione and prepare ane expedient for ease and relief of the saids burrows against the next generall conventione.

Meetings as to trade and the Union.

28. The conventione, considering that the burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders within the natione have the benefit of trade (which only belongs to the royall burrows) without bearing any adequat burden of their taxt roll, therfor the conventione recomends to the respective royall burrows of the kingdome to consider and advise against the sitting of the parliament whether or not it will be conducive to the interest of the burrows to address the parliament to stent the burrowes

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

complexly with the land rent of the rest of the kingdome, conforme to their valuations to be made, and that the haill kingdome have the benefite and priviledge of trade, with power to the lord provost of Edinburgh not only to call a generall conventione of the royall burrowes *pro ea re nata* when he thinks fitt, but also to call the said conventione in case the great concern of ane union with England comes to be laid befor and considered by the parliament, that the burrows may advise what is fitt to be represented to the parliament as most tending to the advancement of trade, the benefite and priviledges of the burrowes, as well as to ease them of the unsupportable burden they lye under; and ordains the haill burrows to send up ther commissioners fully instructed hereanent.

Meetings as to trade and the Union.

Alerdice, factor.

29. Remitted to the committee on the staple and unfree trade, petition by John Alerdice, younger, merchant in Camphier, to be one of the staple factors there.

Agents accompts.

30. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from 1st July 1705 to 1st July 1706 extending to £6,360, 15s. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions.

The following items are contained in the accounts :—	lib.	s.	d.
Item, to the secretaries of state	1333	6	8
Item, to the advocat	333	6	8
Item, to the under clerks of counsell with a petition for opening trade with France and Spain and for passes for that effect and a letter to the Queen theranent . . .	56	16	0

Agents accompts for unfree trade audited.

31. The agent's accounts of his intromissions with the money paid by unfree towns for the communication of trade from July 1697 to July 1705 and which was appointed to be applied towards payment of the proportion of six pounds of the tax roll from July 1705 to July 1706, showed that there had been received £6455, 0s. 4d. After payments there remained in the agent's hands a balance of £2551, 19s. 4d. The convention instructed the agent "to pursue vigorously all these who have agreed and hes not payed their quotas, as also to prosecut all lyable conforme to law."

Comitte for unfree trade and staple, &c.

32. Appointed a committee "to treat, setle, and agree with those who shall applye to them for ther unfree trade" from 1st July 1697 to 1st July 1707; and also remitted to the committee the whole affairs relating to the staple port and to consider and adjust all complaints which shall be brought before them either betwixt burghs or burgesses.

Unfree traders, agreements continued.

33. Agreed that all those who had paid for their unfree trade since July 1697 should be continued at the same rate and proportion of the tax roll as formerly.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

Glasgow.

34. The convention having considered petition by Glasgow, "representing their great and unsupportable burdens, and finding that the missive dues this year have risen extreamly by the advance of money for outrigging the ship called the Royall William," they recommended to the next general convention that the ease of that burgh should have first place in their consideration.

Fraserburgh.

35. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade petition from the town of Fraserburgh as to payment of their quota for unfree trade.

Air, tolbuith.

36. Remitted to the same committee petition by the town of Air "representing the ruinous condition of ther tolbuith and that the same would certainly fall to the ground befor the nixt conventione if no remedy be fallen upon to prevent the same."

Letter to the magistrats of Campvere.

37. The conventione approved the draught of ane letter to the magistrates of Campvere to be sent from them, and ordained the samen to be signed by Sir Samuell M'Clellan, dean of gild of Edinburgh, their preses, in their name, of which the tennor folloues:—Right honorable. We being very desirous that the staple contract be inviolably observed, have therfor thought fitt to acquaint yow that we are firmly resolved to do all and every thing on our part in order to a strict observance therof, but at the same time we take occasione to signifie to yow the great disapoyntments the royall burrowes hes met with for want of convoyes, duly and seasonably sent to take care of our ships in the terms of the staple contract, the want wherof doeth certainly oblige our ships to go to other places, and therfor seeing Sir Andrew Kennedy, our conservator, is preparing to go to the toun of Campvere to take care of our affaires, we take this occasione to intreat your honours will be more careful for the futur to send convoyes at such tymes as our said conservator shall desire and our trade doth require; and we on our part have ordered our said conservator to take most speciall care that the staple port be duly observed and that he timously and frequently acquaint our agent of such persons who are guilty of the breach therof, that so they may be punished according to law, to which we shall alwise give our assistance. We are most desirous to entertain a good friendship and correspondence with your honours and do expect and desire that you will give all due incouragement and protectione to our said conservator that so he may be inabled to discharge his office with that dilligence and care which we expect from him. We are, right honourable, your honours most humble servants. Signed by order and in presence of the conventione mett. *Sic subscribitur:*

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

Letter to the magistrats of Campvere.

SA. M°CLELLAN, preses. Wherupon Collonell Patrick Ogilvie, commissioner for the burgh of Cullen, for himself and in name and behalf of all those that would adhere to him, protested that in respect of the competition depending befor the lords of sessione anent the office of conservator, betwixt Sir Alexander Cumming and Sir Andrew Kennedy, that this convention of burrowes do nowayes medle in anything that may be prejudiciall, and further protested against the draught of the said letter to the magistrats of Campvere in so far as it is anyuise inconsistent with her Majesties gift in favours of the said Sir Alexander Cumming and letter to the last conventione, or may be anyuise prejudiciall to Sir Alexander Cummings interest, who is at present out of the natione, and therupon took instruments in the clerks hands. To which Sir Andrew Kennedy, conservator, being personally present, made the following ansuer: (1°) That no member of the conventione did second such a protest nor adhere therto so that the same ought not to be marked, being only taken by one member. (2°) Sir Andrew having been received and admitted by the conventione, no other can pretend right untill he be duly admitted by the royall burrows. (3°) The said Sir Andrew instantly produced ane decreet of the lords of sessione wherby his possession is declared and continued, in which decreet the Queens Majestie is compearing, and the said Sir Alexander Cumming decerned to desist from mollesting or troubling the said Sir Andrew Kennedy in the free and peaceable possessione of his office, wherby the matter is *res judicata;* wherupon the said Sir Andrew Kennedy protested for cost skaith and damnage and therupon took instruments in the clerks hands.

Ratification of the sett of Elgin.

38. On the petition of the burgh of Elgin the convention ratified and approved of the set made and pronounced by the commissioners of the burghs under the 14th act of last general convention.

Burdens affecting burgage lands.

39. The conventione considering how dangerous and inconvenient it is to the commone good of borrowes that any burgh should sell, annalyie, or wadset any part of their burgage lands or any uther lands in use to be taxed with the burghs to any person without obliging the purchaser to pay ane proportionall part of all publick burdens imposed or to be imposed upon the said burgh effeiring to the rentall of the purchase, therfor the convention statuts and ordains that when any burgh shall happen to sell, annalyie, or wadset any part of their burgage lands, tenements or houses,

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

Burdens affecting burgage lands.

or any others in use to be taxed with the toun in time coming, the same shall be convoyed with the burden of all impositions which may happen to affect the said burgh, and that effeiring to the true rentall of the lands, tenements, houses, and others purchased; and likeuise the convention doth declare that for hereafter they will grant no warrand in favours of any burgh for selling or wadseting any part of their lands, tenements, houses or others forsaid, neither shall any sale made be ratified and approven except in the terms above writen.

Air, privilege of summer imprisonment.

40. On a representation by the burgh of Air as to an action against them for alleged wrongous imprisonment for payment of petty customs due to the tacksman of their meal market, the convention ordained the agent to concur with the magistrates of that burgh "in defending their priviledge of summer imprisonment for payment of petty customes, it being the generall concern of the wholl royall burrows."

Caution to be found for applying gratuities.

41. The convention, considering that frequently gratuities are granted by the royall burrows to severall burghs to be applyed for speciall ends, and how necessar it is that the same be applyed accordingly, therfor the conventione do hereby discharge their agent for hereafter to make payment of any such gratuity that shall be granted to any burgh untill first good and sufficient cautione be found by the said burgh in the hands of our clerk that the said gratuity shall be applyed to the end for which the same wes granted, and that the applicatione therof be duly reported to the next generall conventione; declaring that in case the agent shall do in the contrair hereof the same shall not be alloued to him in his next accompts and the burghs shall be pursued in the terms of their caution.

Act for composing differences and debates.

42. The conventione, considering that frequent debates do happen within severall burghs, both in relation to the manadgment of their commone good and as to the way and manner of their elections of their magistrats and deacons of crafts and other office bearers and manadgment of their revenues, and anent their priviledges and encroachments thereon and other publick concerns, and how necessar and convenient it would be that, conforme to the pouer granted to the royall burrowes by seuerall acts of parliament, all such differences and debates might be composed and agreed by the royall burrowes or a commitie of their number, without bringing the parties concerned to unnecessar trouble and expence and

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

Act for composing differences and debates.

to great heats and animosities within burgh in case the same cannot be egreed at home, therfor the conventione do hereby ordain all such differances and debates which shall for hereafter happen or arise, either betwixt burgh or burgesses within burgh in relatione to the forsaids matters, to be first brought and tabled befor them or a commite of their number yearly to be appointed to sit at Edinburgh for that end, in order to be composed and agreed by their mediatione, hereby declaring that whoever shall do in the contrair hereof shall be reckoned disturbers of the peace of the burrowes and contemners of their authoritie, and shall be fyned and utherwise punished as the conventione or committe shall think fitt conforme to law. And ordains the extracts hereof to be transmitted to the severall burghs to be insert in their counsell books and to be read immediately after ilk annuall electione in presence of the magistrats and haill toun counsell. And ordains each burgh to report to the next generall conventione their dilligence herein by ane extract under their toun clerks hand.

Act for advancing of trade.

43. The conventione, considering how much it imports the state of the burrowes of this natione to have their trade duely regulat and their product and manufactory well improven, as also the laws and acts of parliament made anent trade put to due executione, do therfor appoynt the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Montross, each to send one of their number to Edinburgh fully instructed be the trading persons in and about the respective burghs from whence they come what may be most conducive to the advancing the various branches of the trade of the natione, and puting to due executione the laws and acts already made; which persons are to reside at Edinburgh during each session of parliament to give their best advice to the state of burrowes in relatione to what concerns the trade of the natione; and furder the conventione ordains Sir Andrew Kennedy, conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, yearly to send to the agent to the royall burrowes ane account of what alteratione trade does undergoe, especially in reference to the product of this natione, and that a month befor each annuall conventione.

Sellaries and gratuities.

44. Ordained the agent to pay to the secretaries of state £1333, 6s. 8d. Scots, to the advocate £333, 6s. 8d., and certain salaries and gratuities to the clerks, servants and others.

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

45. Unlawed each absent burgh, except Dundie, in £100 Scots.

45. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1707.

Absent Burghs unlawed. Act of adjournment.

SETT of the BURGH OF ELGIN, ratified by the 38th act of the preceding General Convention.

Sett of the burgh of Elgin. 13 Sept. 1705.

At Elgin, the thirten day of September j^m^ vij^c^ and five years. The which day, the committe did make the following sett which they ordained to be a constant platforme and standart theranent for the futur, to be strictly observed without the least alteratione or change, viz.—that the number of the toun counsell of Elgin shall consist of seventen counsellors (including the deacon conveener for the time) and tuo other deacons of trade which tuo deacons are to be chosen by the counsell conforme to the trades their contract with the gildrie. *Item*, That Munday immediately preceding Michalmes yearly be the day of the electione of the new counsell for the ensueing year. *Item*, That Tuesday therafter immediately preceding Michalmes as said is be the day of the electione of the magistrats and other office bearers of the said burgh. *Item*, That ther shall be put off yearly of the old counsell three of the gildrie and tuo of the trades and in their place as many elected of the same qualitie. *Item*, That out of the forsaid number of the counsell ther shall be chosen ane provost, four baillies, dean of gild, theasurer, and other office bearers; which provost shall not continue in office of provostrie above three years at once, but prejudice aluise to change him yearly as the counsell shall think fitt; and the saids baillies, dean of gild, theasurer, and other office bearers shall not continue in their saids offices above tuo years at once, but prejudice to change them yearly as said is. *Item*, That the provost, baillies, dean of gild and theasurer, shall *ex officijs* be continued on the counsell for the next year after they are put off their respective offices. *Item*, That the old counsell yearly choise the new counsell, and that both old and new counsells yearly choise the magistrats and other office bearers. *Item*, That no persone be capable to be elected a magistrat, office bearer, or counsellor within the said burgh except residenters and burgesses within the same, actual traders and traffiquing merchants, bearing scott and lott and all portable charges with neighbours thein. *Item*, That the

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

Sett of the burgh of Elgin. 13 Sept. 1705.

counsell shall yearly choise out of their oun number five assessors to the dean of gild to sitt with him, wherof three, with the dean of gild himself, are to be a quorum. *Item*, That the toun counsell shall yearly choise fiften persones extraneous from the counsell, wherof tuo of the trades, and nin to be a quorum, which fiften persones so chosen shall give their oaths *de fideli* befor the counsell and shall be stent masters for the ensueing year for proportioning in presence of a baillie all the stents to be imposed within the burgh that year. *Item*, That no stent be imposed on the inhabitants of the burgh (except the publick cess due by law) without consent of ane head court. *Item*, That on the second Tuesday of September yearly the magistrats call ane head court and ther expose to the wholl inhabitants the present condition and circumstances of the burgh and of the commone good therof, and of their own manadgement of the samen; and that the haill office bearers books and accompts lye on the counsell table yearly twenty dayes preceding the head court, for the satisfaction of all concerned. And the said committe willed and declared that the above sett should stand and continue wnviolable and unchangeable in all tyme coming for the rule and government of the said burgh of Elgin, and should commence and take effect at Michalmes one thousand seven hundred and six years, and yearly and continually therafter, certifieing the breakers therof that the royall burrowes would nottifie and punish them accordingly and state themselves against them. The committe adjourned the said meeting till tomorrow, at which time they would consider the other grivances *hinc inde* under submissione; and the preses did subscrive the said sederunt for and in name of the meeting. *Sic subscribitur:* ALEXR. LESLIE, *P.* At Elgin the fourten day of September j^{m} vij^{c} and five years. The forsaid haill committe present *ut supra.* The said day, the committe considering that the above sett made for regulating the electiones of the magistracy and toun counsell of Elgine in manner contained in their last sederunt does not take effect till Michalmes j^{m} vij^{c} and six years [nominated a council of the burgh for the ensuing year.]

EDINBURGH. 8 July 1706.

Disposition by Elgin of Cattails. 13 July 1703.

DISPOSITION by the Burgh of Elgin of the lands called the Cattails, ratified by the 24th act of the preceding convention.

The narrative proceeds thus:—"Forasmuch as diverse Kings of Scotland, with advice of the three estates of this natione, esteemed it profitable to sett in feu farm the lands of this kingdome, and that for the policie and decernment therof, and conforme to the tennor of the acts of parliament, made theranent, the commissioners of the burrowes of this kingdome being laufully conveened in the conventione holden at Montross the ninten day of June j^{m} v^{c} and ninty one, did ordain the commone lands of the haill burghs of this kingdome to be set in feu farme for the profet the respective burghs might have therby; which act our umquhill Soverign Lord, King James the sixth, of blessed memory, by his charter of confirmatione under his great seall, ratified and approved and specially recommended the same to the burrowes who had not then sett in feu ferme their commone land, consenting, commanding and ordaining them that they should sett and lett out in feu farme all and sundry their commone lands to the actual inhabitants burgesses of the said burghs for the profit and comoditie of the burgh and in augmentatione of the rentall of the same, and that they should confirme and ratifie the infeftments made or to be made therupon, as in the acts of burrowes and charter of confirmatione at more length is contained; lykeas in ane act of the generall conventione of burrowes holden at Aberdeen upon the [eighth] day of July j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty eight years, for the reasons and causes therin contained, the said conventione did grant warrand to the magistrats of the said burgh of Elgin for the time and their successors to dispose of their grass lands of Cattaills either in feu or long tack as they should think fitt, as the said act at more length bears." The deed then proceeds that "for augmentation of the rental in twenty shillings Scots more as ever the lands after specifeit paid" to them or their predecessors, and also for 1150 merks Scots paid to them, the magistrates and council disponed "the greens called the Cattails lyand besouth the burgh crofts" in feu farm to David Bremner and his heirs male and assignees, "being actuall inhabitants, burgesses of the said burgh of Elgin or duelling any wher ells sua they have and obtaine the liberty therof, and for the same shall pay to us and our successors in office" 200 merks, for which sum they are to be admitted to the freedom of the burgh, "provyding aluayes he be a man of good life and inclinatione and carry and behave himself as a burges and peaceable man, subject to the laws as it is prescrived by the burrou laws, and if he cary and behave himself wtherwise we are not obliged to enter and admit him." The yearly feu-duty is £42 Scots as old tack duty and 20s. Scots of augmentation.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 29 October 1706.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilson and Gilbert Somervell; Perth, James Cree; Aberdeen, John Gordon; Stirling, John Ærskine; Linlithgow, Walter Steuart; St Andrews, Alexander Watsone; Glasgow, John Aird; Air, John Moor; Hadingtoun, Alexander Edgar; Dysert, John Black; Kirkcaldie, James Osuald; Montross, James Scott; Cuper, Patrick Bruce; Anstruther Easter, Sir John Anstruther; Dumfreis, William Copland; Inverkeithing, James Dudgeon; Kinghorn, Mr Patrick Moncrief; Brichen, Alexander Young; Irving, George Monroe; Jedburgh, Walter Scott; Kirkudbright, Hugh Fullerton; Wigtoun, Simeon Gullin; Dumfermling, John Veitch; Selkirk, Robert Scott; Dumbarton, Sir James Smolett; Renfreu, Collin Campble; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, William Inglis; Aberbrothuick, John Hutchesone, Elgin, William Sutherland; Peebles, John Tueedy; Culross, Robert Hunter; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Forfar, John Lyon; Rothsay, Mr Dugall Steuart; Nairn, John Ross; Ruthglen, George Spence; Northberuick, Sir Hugh Dalrymple; Lauder, Sir David Cunningham; Kilrenny, James Bethun; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Lochmaben, Andrew Johnston; Queensferry, Edward Hill; Inverarey, Mr Daniel Cample; Stranraer, Mr George Dalrymple. (Twenty-one burghs *blank*.)

29 October 1706.

1. Sir Samuel M'Lellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.
2. Appointed a committee to consider the commissions. Revising commissions.
3. Members who had not previously qualified took the oath and subscribed the assurance. Members qualified.

4 November 1706.

4. Approved of the whole commissions.

5. The conventione remitts to the consideratione of a commite of the wholl house the draught of ane adress from the royall burrows to the parliament in relatione to the treaty of Union betwixt Scotland and England presented be Lieutenant-collonell Ærskin, commissionar from the burgh of Stirling. Commissions approven. Committee anent the Union.

5 November 1706.

6. Upon report of the committe of the wholl house, to whom it wes remitted to consider the said adress given in be Collonell Ærskin, they having mett and the same being read, after some debate it wes unanimously Address approven.

EDINBURGH. 5 November 1806.

agreed to by the said committe that ane adress be presented to the parliament in name of the royall burrowes, and having proceeded to the vott,—transmitt the said adress now lying befor the committe to be considered by the general conventione, or prepare a new adress,—it wes caryed the said adress should be transmitted to the conventione. Which being considered by the conventione, and after much debate anent the nature of the adress to be by them presented to the parliament; and the adress transmitted by the said committe to the conventione being read and proceeding to the vott, the vott wes doubly stated,—first, approve of the adress or not,—secondly, proceed to the consideratione of the articles of the treaty befor the adress. The first state of the vott wes,—adress or articles,—and being caryed adress, they proceeded to the vott,—approve of the adress or not,—and caryed approve; and thereafter the vott being stated,—shall the adress be signed by the preses in name of the conventione or by all the members,—it was unanimously caryed the same should be signed by the preses in name of the conventione; and appointed the same to be recorded, whereof the tennor followes:—To his Grace, her Majesties High Commissioner, and the right honourable the Estates of Parliament. The adress of the commissioners to the general conventione of the royall burrowes of this ancient kingdome, conveened at Edinburgh the tuenty ninth of October last, upon the great concern of the Union proposed betwixt Scotland and England, for conserting such measures as should be esteemed proper for them to take with relatione to their trade and other concerns, humbly sheweth:—That as by the Claim of Right it is the priviledge of all subjects to petitione, so at this time we being mostly empouered by our constituents, and knowing the sentiments of the people wee represent, it is our indispenceable duty to signifie to your grace and the honourable estates of parliament that as wee are not against a honourable and safe union with England, consisting with the being of this kingdome and parliaments therof, without which wee conceive neither our religious nor our civil interests and trade as we now by law enjoy them can be secured to us and our posterity, farr less can we expect to have the conditione of the people of Scotland with relatione to these great concerns made better and improven without a Scots parliament, and seeing by the articles of union now under the consideratione of the honourable estates of parliament it is agreed that Scotland

Address approven.

Adress to the parliament.

EDINBURGH. 5 November 1706.

Adress to the parliament.

and England shall be united into one kingdome, and that the united kingdome be represented by one and the same parliament, by which our monarchy is supprest, our parliament extinguished, and in consequence our religione, church government, claim of right, lawes, liberties, trade, and all that is dear to us dayly in danger of being encroached upon, altered, or wholly subverted by the English in a Brittish parliament, wherin the mean representatione alloued for Scotland can never signifie in securing to us the interests reserved by us or granted to us by the English; and by these articles our poor people are made lyable to the English taxes, which is a certain unsupportable burden, considering that the trade proposed is uncertain involved and wholly precarious, especially when regulat as to export and import by the lawes of England and under the same prohibitions, restrictions, customes, and dutyes; and considering that the most considerable branches of our trade are different from those of England and are and may be yet more discouraged by their lawes, and that all the concerns of trade and other interests are after the union subject to such alterations as the parliament of Brittain shall think fitt; we therfor humbly supplicat your grace and the honourable estates of parliament, and do assuredly expect that yow will not conclude such ane incorporating union as is contained in the articles proposed, but that yow will support and maintain the true reformed protestant religione and church government as by law established, the sovereignity and independency of this crown and kingdome, and the rights and priviledges of parliament, which have been generously asserted by you in the [present] sessione of this present parliament, and do further pray that effectuall means may be used for defeating the designes and attempts of all popish pretenders whatsomever to the successione of this croun and kingdome, and for securing this natione against all the attempts and encroachments that may be made by any persons whatsomever upon the sovereignity, religion, lawes, liberties, trade and quiet of the same; and we promise to mentain, with our lives and fortounes, all those valuable things, in opposition to all popish and other enemies whatsomever, according to our lawes and claim of right. Signed by order and in presence of the convention by. *Sic subscribitur:* SA. M'CLELLAN, *preses.* And it being proposed that the representatives of the burghs of Linlithgow and St Androus should present the same to the parliament, the convention appoynted, by ane unanimous

EDINBURGH. 5 November 1706.

vott, that the representatives of the saids burghs of Linlithgow and St Androus should present the same.

6 November 1706.

Adres signed and delyvered.

7. The lord provost of Edinburgh, preses, having in presence of the conventione signed the adress from the royall burrowes to the parliament mentioned in the former minuts, and delyvered the same to the representatives of the burghs of Linlithgow and St Androws appointed by the saids minuts to present the same; and the conventione appoynts Sir Robert Forbes of Achinhove, their agent, to advance a guinnie to be given to the clerk therwith.

7 November 1706.

Committe anent trade, etc.

8. Appointed a committee to meet after the dissolving of this convention "to take into their consideratione the great concern of the nation in relation to trade and receive such overtures as shall be given in to them by merchants or others theranent and consider the same."

Clerks and servants.

9. Recommended to next general convention "to consider the clerks and their servants for their great pains in this conventione and committies."

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *anent Unfree Traders and Staple, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 25 January 1707. Sederunt.

Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Air, Haddingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montross, Dumfries, Inverness, Dumfermling, Dumbarton, Bamf, Lauder, Annan, Week, (all *blank*.)

25 January 1707.

Preses.

1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Differences amongst inhabitants of Aberbrothock.

2. Anent the petition from severall of the inhabitants of the burgh of Aberbrothuick, shewing that at Michalmes, j^{m} vij^{c} and five years, ther was a most illegall election of magistrats and counsellors of the said burgh, which upon applicatione to her Majesties privy counsell was declared void and null and a new electione appointed to be made, which was done

accordingly, but the modificatione of the expenses in prosecuting therof was reserved till a report should be made of the said new electione, which remains yet undone by reasone of severall differences not yet adjusted amongst the inhabitants of the said burgh, as also that the said illegally elected magistrats did take out of the touns charter chist severall papers which concerned the community, and that they still retained the same, craving therfor the committe would interpose their authority and appoint some of the neighbouring burrowes to endeavour to accomodat all differences amongst their saids inhabitants, particularly in the matter above represented, as they are in use to do in the like cases; which being considered by the committe they appoint the commissioners for the burghs of Perth, Dundie, Montross, Brichen, and Forfar, whereof three to be a quorum, to meet at the said burgh of Aberbrothock upon the first day of Aprill next to come, and to adjourn themselves from time to time as they shall think fitt, to endeavour to compose all differences amongst the inhabitants of the said burgh, and particularly to get the persons who prosecuted the said illegall electione reimbursed of their expences and to see the saids papers restored and report to the nixt generall conventione, declaring that in case they shall refuse to submitt to the determination of the commissioners of the saids burghs our agent shall be furthwith appointed to concurr against them.

EDINBURGH. 25 January 1707.

Differences amongst inhabitants of Aberbrothock.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, Wm. Neilson and Gilbert Somervell; Perth, James Cree; Dundie, George Yeaman; Aberdeen, John Gordon; Stirling, John Ærskin; Linlithgow, James Buncell; St Andrews, Alexander Watson; Glasgow, John Aird; Air, Robert Muir; Hadingtoun, Richard Miller; Dysert, John Black; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Montrose, Robert Turnbull; Couper, Henry Spence; Anstruther Easter, James Graham; Dumfreis, William Copland; Inverness, Mr Alexander Clark; Innerkeithing, James Dudgeon; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brichen, Alexander Young; Irving, George Monroe; Jedburgh, Walter Scott; Kirkcudbright, Hugh Fullerton; Pittenueem, Mr Robert Clelland; Dumfermling, John Veitch; Anstruther Wester, Sir Robert Anstruther; Selkirk, Robert Scott; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Dunbar, Robert Kellie; Lanerk, William Inglis; Aberbrothock, John Hutchesone; Elgin, Thomas Calder; Peebles, John

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1707. Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. 1 July 1707.

Sederunt. Tweedy; Craill, Henry Craufoord; Tain, Mr Æneas Macleod; Culros, John Adam; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Forfar, William Douglass; Forras, Alexander Brodie; Ruthglen, John Scott; Lauder, Sir David Cunningham; Kilrenny, James Peacock; Annan, Mr William Johnstone; Lochmaben, Andrew Johnstone; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Fortrose, Willaim Tolme; Week, James Murray; Inverbervie, Alexander Maitland; Campbletoun, Mr Neil Campble. (Seventeen burghs *blank*.)

1 July 1707.

Preses. 1. Sir Samuell Maclelan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Revising commissions. 2. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.

2 July 1707.

Commissions approved, members qualified. 3. Approved of the whole commissions. Members who had not previously qualified took the oath and subscribed the assurance.

Committee. 4. Appointed a committee to consider the heads of the missive, the matter of trade, and what concerns the unfree traders, and whatever else shall be remitted to them.

3 July 1707.

Heads of missive continued. 5. Continued certain articles to be heads of next general missive.

Burntisland, peir and harbour. 6. On report of the committee as to the present circumstances of Burntisland for want of a magistracy, the convention remitted its farther consideration to the committee on unfree trade, with power to allow a sum not exceeding £50 sterling, including 500 merks formerly voted but not paid, for repair of their harbour. "And recomends to such members of the conventione as are members of the parliament of Great Brittain to petition the parliament in name of the royal burrows to take care of the peer and herbour of the said burgh or any other burgh that shall applye, and that for the conveniency of the trade of North Britain."

Conservator, Clark and Frazer. 7. Appointed a committee to endeavour to adjust the differences between the conservator and Alexander Clark and John Frazer, merchants in Inverness.

5 July 1707.

Irving, power to feu lands. 8. "Anent the petition from the burgh of Irving, shewing that ther being a piece of sandy and barren ground belonging to the said burgh, at present useless and in danger of being overblowen with sand, which the magistrats thought might be improven by fewing or setting the samen in tack, and this was accordingly done by act of toun counsell, but in regard the inhabitants of the said burgh do refuse to medle by vertue of the forsaid act, therfor craving the convention would ratifie,

approve, and confirme the samen;" which being considered, the convention ratified and approved the act and authorised the burgh to set the land in feu or long tack. EDINBURGH. 5 July 1707.

9. Recommended the state of the burgh of Cuper in Fife, which is "ane inland place having no trade but retaill," to be considered by next general convention. Cuper in Fife.

10. Ratified, approved, and confirmed disposition by the burgh of Elgin of a rood and a half of land sold in terms of the 24th act of last general convention. Elgin, disposition ratified.

11. Anent petition by the burgh of Brichane, shewing that they are unfortunately engaged in a process with the Earl of Panmuir before the lords of session, and "put to such expence as they are no longer able to subsit against so potent ane adversary," which being considered by the convention, "they recomend to Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Forglane, one of the senators of the colledge of justice, to wait upon the Earl of Panmuir in order to adjust the said affair." Brichen, Earl of Panmuir.

12. Anent the petitione from Aberbrothock, shewing that after a visit made by the contiguous burghs in order to adjust all differences amongst the inhabitants ther, the pains taken by the visitors proved vain, conforme to the report produced, and the offenders continued obstinat, refusing the mediatione of the visitors either as to the modificatione of the expences disburst by privat persons for retriving the priviledges of the burgh invaded by a moab or their adjusting other abuses committed be them, particularly their refusing to pay multur to the touns milns, conforme to ane contract of thirlage, wherby the saids milns are turned void of tenents and useless, and likewise by a great storme in January last the greatest part of their harbour was broken doun and cost great expence to put the same in a tollerable conditione, craving therfor the conventione would not only ordain ther agent to concurr with the said burgh in prosecuting their saids rights and priviledges but alsoe to grant some supplie for repairing their said harbour, as the petitione bears; which being considered by the conventione they ordain their agent to concurr with the said burgh in the forsaid actions, reserving to the committee for unfree trade to be named by this conventione, at conclusione of the cause, to determine whether the said concurrence shall be upon the common expence of the burrows or not, and farder that the burghs of Dundie, Montross, Brichen and Forfar, or any two of them, visit the harbour and make enquiry into the circumstances of the said burgh and report to the next conventione. Aberbrothock.

13. Anent a petition by the burgh of Craill shewing that the pier of the said Craill.

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1707.

Craill.

burgh being old and ruinous a great part of it was beat doun by a storme this last winter and the rest therof likely to run the same fate unless a speedy remedy be applyed," the convention appointed a committee to visit the pier and harbour and report.

Act as to selling herrings.

14. Anent another petitione from the burgh of Craill, for themselves and in name and behalf of the other burghs in Fife concerned in the fishing, and in name of the burgh of Dunbar, shewing that the petitioners finding in their experience that the selling of herrings by tale is a great loss to the merchants, being often injured in telling therof, besides the herrings themselves being dashed and spoyled, craving therfor the conventione would obviat the saids inconveniencies by provyding that the herrings in the saids burgh be sold by ane mett containing fourty two pynts of liquid measure, commonly called the two hundred herrings mett, and that the magistrats of each burgh wher herrings are bought and sold may keep a standart of the said mett, that all the metts within their jurisdictione be agreeable therto, as the petitione bears; which being considered by the conventione, they recomend to the saids burghs of Craill and the other burghs in Fife and Dunbar, that for hereafter no herrings be bought within their respective jurisdictiones by tale but only by the forsaid mett called the two hundred herrings mett, and to take care to keep ane standart of the said measure, to the effect all other measures may be agreeable therto, but prejudice always to the toun of Linlithgow of keeping metts and their priviledges of keeping metts and measures as formerly.

Dysert.

15. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade petition by the burgh of Dysert "craving some supplie to help them to rebuild their tolbuith, the said burgh not being in a conditione to cary on that work without help."

Agents accompts. Glasgow.

16. Remitted to a committee to consider the agent's accounts and report.

17. Anent petition by the burgh of Glasgow, "shewing their bad circumstances, with their great loss they have laitly sustained in ther shiping," the convention appointed the agent to pay the burgh 2000 merks Scots of present supply, and the condition of the burgh to be a head of next general missive.

Act in favours of Kirkcudbright.

18. Anent the petitione given in for the burgh of Kirkudbright, shewing that it had been the imemoriall and constant sett and consuetude of the said burgh ever since its erectione into a royall burgh, to elect and choise the magistrats to officiat in the said burgh at the term of Michalmass yearly, and the new counsellers yearly at the said term viz.,

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1707.

Act in favours of Kirkcudbright.

eight dayes befor the said term of Michalmas yearly, the magistrates and toun counsell of the burgh which consists of seventeen persons, viz., the provest, two baillies, the thesaurer, and thirteen common counsellors, does elect and choice tuo or three new counsellors, the number of tuo or three being still optionall to the saids magistrats and counsell, and immediately the saids magistrats and old counsell do vott three of their own number of the counsell in lieu and in place of the three new counsellors votted as aforesaid, which tuo or three new counsellors votted to come upon the counsell are warned to attend the electione of the magistrats upon Michalmass day, wher they are qualified and received befor votting, and therafter proceed to the electing of the provest, who is still to be a merchant or heretor within the burgh, and then to the electione of the tuo baillies and thesaurer, who are to be merchants or tradsmen as they shall happen to be votted; and at the said electione the community of the burgh doe still name a persone to represent them who is to have a vott in the electione of the magistrats only but not of the new counsell, and that beside the ordinary toun counsell of seventeen persons, but the forsaid representative for the community is no furder a member of the toun counsell nor hes no vott but simply in the said electione; the forsaid tuo or three new counsellors yearly assumed into the counsell and the forsaid tuo or three old counsellors put of the counsell in lieu of them are indefinitly either merchants or tradsmen as the counsell, by plurality, shall vott; and besides the forsaids magistrats, thesaurer and counsell, ther was never within the said burgh either dean or deacon of craft, neither had any tradesmen liberty to conveen to consider any matters relating to their severall crafts without the authority and consent of the magistrats, nor were ther any incorporat crafts in the said burgh or any compositione or fyn due by any tradsmans to the fraternity of his trade, but that every man who was a burges of the burgh might exerce and follow the occupatione he was capable of. Which being considered by the conventione, together with overtures anent the sett of the said burgh, they ordered both the petitione and overtures to be recorded upon conditione that the intendant or overseer mentioned in the saids overtures shall not be continued in office above tuo years together, the tenor of which overtures followes:—Overtures by the commissioners of Dumfries, Wigtoun and Neugallauay, for accomodating differences betuixt the magistrats and

EDINBURGH. 5 July 1707. Act in favours of Kirkcudbright.

toun counsell of Kirkudbright and trades of the said burgh :—*Primo*, That the constitution and sett of the said burgh be unalterable and continue the same in all time coming as it hes been in times bygone, except in so far as it may be innovat by any of the overtures followiug. *Secundo*, that at the annuall electione of the magistrats at Michalmass, after the electione of the provest, tuo baillies, and thesaurer, conform to the immemoriall sett of the burgh, that the magistrats and counsell do immediately therafter and at the same time elect, nominat, and choise ane intendant and overseer to the crafts and tradsmen within the burgh, who is to be ane burges, freeman and mekanick, and ane of the toun counsell for the time, and *ex officio* is to be a counsellor during the time of his being intendant and overseer as said is. *Tertio*, that the said intendant or overseer, by his office, is to have the care and oversight in preserving the priviledge of the trads within the burgh and of receiving or refusing any mekanick or tradsman into the fraternity or priviledge of ane tradsman of this burgh, with and under these conditions and provisions, *primo*, that it shall not be leisum to the said intendant to receive any one freeman of the trads who is not admitted first ane burges by the magistrats and toun counsell; and, *secundo*, that it shall not be leisum to him to exact or demand more for the priviledge of being admitted and incorporat as tradsman then the equall half of what compositione or fyn which [by] the constitution or acts of toun counsell hath been or shall be payable for the priviledge of burgesship ; and, *tertio*, that it shall be without prejudice to the magistrats and toun counsell to admitt and receive ane person of ilk craft or trade who shall be found to exceed any of the tradsmen in Kirkudbright in skill or dexterity of the craft he professes and to indue him with the priviledge of burgesship and freedome amongst the trads, he always being obliged to reside in the place and bear scott and lott with his neighbours, and being subject to such acts and constitutions of trade as shall be enacted in manner underwriten. *Quarto*, That the said intendant or overseer do oblige all the tradsmen within the burgh to receive no prentices but such as shall be bound to serve for three years and ane year for meat and fee, and that they be booked in the toun counsell books conforme to use and wont, otherwise that they be uncapable of the priviledge of burgesship by and through their service, and to obviat any collusione betwixt ane master and apprentice that besides the

EDINBURGH: 5 July 1707.

Act in favours of Kirkcudbright.

masters discharge of the indentures that the said intendant give in ane certificate to the toun counsell that the said apprentice hath faithfully served his full time, otherwise the said apprentice is to enjoy no priviledge otherwise than as ane stranger. *Quinto,* That the said intendant doe at the admission of any tradsman appoint him ane piece of work for the proof and essay of his knouledge and skill, and if the said work be found insufficient, albeit he be ane burges yet that he may be rejected as ane incorporat member of the trads for his ignorance. *Sexto,* That the said intendant and overseer shall have the power to conveen the trads and ammerciat delinquents and offenders upon just complaints; and if the fault be such as deserves imprisonment that he crave the magistrats authority and concurrance; and with power to regulat the prices of work, make acts and constitutions for the saids trads, their better regulatione and pollicy, the same being aluise subject to the review, alteratione, and approbation of the magistrats and toun counsell, and to be of no force or binding till the civil sanctione and authority be interponed thereto. *Septimo,* The commissioners above-named do propose the above articles which they find agreeable to the present constitutione of the burgh of Kirkudbright to be their sett in all time coming to be irrevocably observed, and recommends to the magistrats and counsell to lay the samen before the generall conventione of the royall burrows for their ratificatione. Signed at Kirkudbright the twenty third day of October 1706 years. *Sic subscribitur:* Wm. Coupland, Alex. Campbell, John Chalmers. And ordains the principall articles to be put in the chartor chist for conservatione *ad futuram rei memoriam.* The which day, the magistrats toun counsell and tradsmen within this burgh do hereby approve of the above overtures, and engages hereby to stand to and abide thereat without innovation or alteratione therof in all time coming, and in testimony hereof have subscrivet the same with their hands. [Here follow signatures.] Extracted furth of the burrow court books of Kirkcudbright.

Agents accompts appro ven.

19. Approved of the agent's accounts of disbursements from July 1706 to July 1707, extending to £9140, 0s. 4d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions. The account contains the following items:—

Item, for sixty Articles of the Union and as many of the minuts . £111 0s.

Edinburgh. 6 July 1707.

Item, to Sir Patrick Johnston per warrand for presenting the burrows address to the Queen . . . . . £103 4s.

Item, for coach hyre last conventione and during the parliament . £80 0s.

Accompts, unfree trade.

20. The agent's accounts of his intromissions with the money paid by unfree touns for communication of trade, and which was appointed to be applied towards payment of the proportion of six pounds of the tax roll, showed that there had been received from July 1706 to July 1707, £1530, 0s. 4d. Scots, which, with last year's balance, made the charge amount to £4081, 19s. 8d. The agent paid £5220 of cess and £600 of missive dues, and there remained due by the burghs to him a balance of £1738, 0s. 4d.

10 July 1707.

Tayn.

21. Anent the petitione from the burgh of Tain, sheuing that wher the Earle of Cromerty having raised ane actione of declarator and molestatione against the said burgh, which long depended to their great loss, and the same having been agreed, the said burgh for the summ of ane thousand merks renunced their pretentions to a part of the commonty of Morwichmuir, reserving to themselves commonty [of] the rest therof, conforme to ane act of the toun counsell produced, craving therfor that the burrows would approve the samen *in communi forma;* as als that in the moneth of September last ther happened a dreadfull fire which in three or four hours destroyed the best part of the toun, and that the tolbuith, steeple, and counsell house will shortly be rebuilt, that therfor ane visitatione should be appointed to report the verrity of the premisses and that the conventione would provyde some remedy to support the said burgh from ruine and appoint their agent to concurr with them in their actione against Sinclair of Ratter, conforme to the tuenty act of the generall conventione, j^{m} vij^{c} and tuo, as the petition bears. Which being considered by the conventione they appoint the burghs of Inverness, Dingwall and Fortrose or any tuo of them to visit the case and condition of the said burgh, tolbuith and steeple, &c., and to report the verrity of the same to the nixt generall conventione, and particularly whether or not the summ of five hundred merks formerly granted to them by the conventione for building of their tolbuith was rightly applyed. And als the conventione ratifies and approves the renunciatione granted by the said burgh of that part of the commonty of Mortuichmuir in favours of George, viscount of

Tarbat, now earle of Cromerty, with this express condition and quality that ane extract hereof be not given out untill the saids visitors report to the nixt conventione that the said renunciatione is profitable to the said burgh; and the conventione appoints the said renunciatione to be recorded after the acts of this present generall conventione. EDINBURGH. 10 July 1707.

22. Ratified a disposition by the burgh of Queensferry to William Patersone, late bailie thereof, and his spouse, of a ruinous tenement sold by public roup; with this express condition that report be made to next convention by the burghs of Linlithgow, Inverkeithing and Dunfermling, that the price has been applied towards payment of the town's debt. Queensferry.

23. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade a petition by the burgh of Dunbar, "craving that the agent may be appointed to concurr with and assist them upon the comone expence of the burrows in defending a vexatious and expencive proces intented against the burgh at the instance of the heretors of the landuard paroch of Dunbar, for payment of a third part of the expence of repairing their church and manse." Dunbar.

24. Anent a petition by the burgh of Peebles, "craving the conventione to order some supplie to enable the burgh to repair their bridges which were in great hazard of falling," the convention appointed a committee to visit the burgh and report the condition of the bridges to the committee anent unfree trade, "in which report the visitors are to take notice what gratuities have been granted by the conventione to them since the revolutione." Peebles.

25. Allowed the burgh of Kirkcudbright "to set a nynteen years tack of their fishing in order to their improving therof, at the sight of the commissioners for Air, Dumfreis, and Wigtoun, in case they find it for the utility of the burgh; and appoynted the saids visitors to report the same, with the state and conditione of the church and steeple of the burgh, to the committee anent unfree trade." Kirkcudbright.

26. Relieved the burgh of Fortrose of 1s. Scots of their proportion of the tax roll in respect of their great poverty and appointed a committee to visit the burgh and report to next general convention. Fortrose.

27-29. Appointed committees to visit and report to next general convention on the condition of the burghs of (27) St Andrews, (28) Inverkeithing and harbour thereto belonging, and (29) Kirkaldie, tolbooth, and pier thereof. St Andrews, Inverkeithing, Kirkaldie.

30. The convention, considering "that very few of the burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders have made agreements for communicatione of trade, and that these who have agreed were only continued by the last annual conventione to this instant month of July," appointed a committee with full power to transact and agree with the saids burghs of barony and regality, or any Committee for unfree traders, etc.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1707.

unfree traders, for the communication of trade both for bygones and in time coming, or to farm the same in whole or in part as they shall see cause.

Forras.

31. Appointed a committee to visit the burgh of Forres and report how far the tack of a piece of waste ground set to Robert Taylor in 1700 "was profitably done for the good and utility of the burgh."

Selkirk, Week.

32. Remitted petitions from the burghs of Selkirk and Week to the committee anent unfree trade.

Office of conservator.

33. The conventione recomended to Sir Alexander Ogilvie of Forglan, one of the senators of the colledge of justice, to represent to the lords of session that it is the earnest desire of the royall burrows that the proces depending before their lordships betuixt Sir Alexander Cuming of Coulter and Sir Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn, in relation to the office of conservator of the Scots priviledges in the Netherlands, be brought to a speedy conclusion, in regard the saids royall burrows have particular concerne therin.

Act for advancement of trade.

34. The conventione, considering that by the articles of Union of the tuo kingdomes of Scotland and England, the priviledges of the royall burrows are therin reserved, and that it is the great interest and concern of all royall burrows that due care be taken now after the Union for advancement of trade and encouragement of the product and manufactur of this part of the United Kingdome, and for asserting the saids priviledges, anent which many things may occurr betuixt and the next annual conventione of the royall burrows, therfor the conventione did nominat, constitut, and ordain the burgh of Edinburgh [and twenty-five other burghs, whereof five to be a quorum, to meet every month] to deliberat and take informatione anent what may be most conducive to the advancement, encouragement, and security of the trade of this northern part of Great Brittain, and to do every thing requisit and necessar in relatione to trade and commerce, as fully and freely in all respects as the convention could have done themselves; and ordaine their agent to advance what money might be necessary in prosecutione of the premisses, the same not exceeding ane hundred pounds sterling; and in case the said committee shall find it necessar to address or petition her Majestie or the parliament of Great Brittain in the said affair, the conventione do hereby impouer the lord provost of Edinburgh to call a conventione for that effect; and recomended to the said committe to cause revise the laws and acts of parlia-

ment in favours of the royall burrows and the priviledges therby granted to them, together with the severall advices of lauers therupon which are lying in ther agents hands, that ane summary may be made of the forsaid priviledges, and appointed ther agent to cause print the same and send copyes therof to the severall royall burghs betuixt and the first of September nixt. EDINBURGH. 10 July 1707.

35. The conventione, considering that ther is due to the royall burrows ane considerable summ of money conforme to their subscriptions for the sum of three thousand pounds sterling in the Affrican Companies books, which probably in a short time will be payed by the commissioners of the equivalent, therfor the conventione autherised and gave warrand to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Haddingtoun, Dysert, Kirkaldie, Montross, Dumfreis, Inverness, Irving, Kirkcudbright, Dunbarton, Dunbar, Craill, Bamf, Northberwick, Lauder, Annan, Queensferry and Inverbervie, wherof five a quorum, Edinburgh being aluise one, as a committe to sitt at Edinburgh after dissolving of this present conventione, to impower Sir Robert Forbes, agent to the royall burrows, or any other persone they shall think fitt, to uplift and receive the forsaid summ and to distribute and proportione the same amongst the respective burrows conforme to their proportions of the taxt roll at the time of their respective advances, and that at the sight and by directions of the said committe, with full pouer to the said Sir Robert or any other persone so to be appointed by warrand forsaid to grant discharges therof in the same way as the generall conventione might do themselves, he being alwayes comptable to the said commite for what he shall so receive and uplift; and the conventione autherised the said committe to determine in all contraversies that may arise in relatione to the proportioning the said sum and to give such directions in the manageing therof as they shall see just, and that the said committe make report hereof to the nixt generall conventione to whom the said committe are ansuerable for the equall distribution of the forsaid sum. Act anent the equivolent.

36. Ordained Robert Panton, one of the staple factors at Campvier, to renew his caution before 1st November next, under penalty of suspension, and to sign the instructions in use to be given to the staple factors. Panton, factor.

37. Admitted John Allerdice, younger, merchant in Campvier, to be a staple factor there, and recommended to the committee anent the staple to take caution and get him to sign the instructions. Allerdice, factor.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1707.

Antiquities.

38. The conventione, upon a petition from Mr David Simpsone, library keeper to her Majestie at Hallyruid house, did recomend to the respective royall burrows to allow the petitioner free inspectione into such of their antiquities as may be for the benefite of the publick.

Anent missive dues and gratuities.

39. The conventione recomended to the committe for unfree trade to search the records and bring in a report to the nixt generall conventione of what sellaries and gratuities they have been in use to give yearly and what the missive dues have extended to yearly these fifty years bygone.

Payment of salaries and gratuities.

40. Appointed the agent to pay certain salaries and gratuities, including £1333, 6s. 8d. to the principal secretaries of state, and £333, 6s. 8d. to her Majesty's advocate.

Agent, £240.

41. Allowed to Sir Robert Forbes of Auchinhove, agent for the burghs, £240 sterling in full of all he can ask and crave for his services.

Act of adjournment.

42. The generall conventione adjourns themselves till the first Tuesday of Jully j^{m} vij^{c} and eight years, and then to meet at Edinburgh in the usuall place, and in the meantime, but prejudice to the said adjournment, they in respect of ane weighty and important affair relating to the trade and wellfare of the state of royall burrows, in relatione to the fleet latly gone for England, wherof they cannot expect a full account untill the tuenty fourth day of this instant moneth of July, therfor they delay the consideration therof at this time and adjourn themselves untill the said day for deliberating about the forsaid matter allenerly, and to meddle with no other bussiness, and recomends to the wholl members here present to attend the forsaid dayet.

RENUNCIATION by the burgh of Tayn of part of the commonty of Mortwichmoir, dated 15th May 1699; referred to in the 21 act of the general convention, 1707.

Tayn, renunciation of part of commonty. 17 May 1699.

This deed narrates that an action of declarator and molestation had been raised by George, viscount of Tarbat, against the burgh, pretending right to the lands of Morvichmoir and also a counter action by the burgh against him, and that the dispute had been settled by the viscount agreeing to pay to the burgh 1000 merks Scots in consider of this renunciation. The burgh therefor renounced any right they had to "that part of Morvichmoir which lyes within that stryp or shannell which runs north of Newtoun of Lochslene as the sea flowes in at the highest streams to Balnagall, and by the lands of Balnagall to the houses of Pitnilzies, and from thence to the northwest house of Pitnilzie now possest be John

M'Eauteir ther, and from thence to a marked hill in the midle of Knockinattine, and from thence to the sea in a direct lyne to the house of Dunrobine, and as the march stons are to be sett ther shall run, and that to and in the speciall favours of the said George, viscount of Tarbatt, his heirs and successors whatsomever, as their property in all times hereafter, and this alluayes with the reservations and conditions following, viz., that any right pretended be the heretors and inhabitants of Invercathie to the saids lands of Morvichmoir is hereby reserved as accords of the law, as alse that that part of Morvichmoir bewest the said march stons shall in all time coming be commontie to ws the saids magistrats counsell and community of the said burgh and to the said George, viscount of Tarbat, and his forsaids as the same was formerly in use and wont."

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1707.

Tayn, renunciation of part of commonty. 17 May 1699.

There is here recorded disposition by the burgh of Queensferry to William Patersone of a tenement of land in the burgh partly ruinous, dated 17 November 1699, referred to in the 22d act of the foregoing general convention. The price paid is 600 merks Scots.

Disposition by Queensferry to Paterson. 17 November 1699.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *anent Unfree Traders, held at* EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, William Neilson; Stirling, John Ærskin; Linlithgow, James Bunckle; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Dunbarton, Sir James Smollet; Annan, Mr William Johnston. (Twenty burghs *blank*.)

EDINBURGH. 17 July 1707. Sederunt.

17 July 1707.

1. Sir Samuel M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Preses.

2. Having considered the case of the town of Dysert, conform to the remit of last general convention, the committee allowed 200 marks Scots "for rebuilding of their tolbuith in satisfactione of all they can claim."

Dysert.

ADJOURNED GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

24 *July* 1707.

The generall convention adjourned from the tenth instant to this day to consider the affair in relatione to the fleet latly gone for England, having mett and ther being a petitione presented from the merchants ouners of the ships and cargoes now arrived at London and other ports in England, wherof the tennor followes:—To the right honorabill the convention of royall burrows, the petition of the merchants ouners of the ships and cargoes now arrived at London and other ports of England, humbly

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1707.

Petitione, the merchants.

EDINBURGH. 24 July 1707.

Petitione, the merchants

sheueth :—That wher wee, undersubscriving, having upon the faith of the treaty of unione sent from Scotland to England severall goods and merchandice alloued to be imported to Scotland befor commencement of the unione, and which were entered and payed her Majesties dutyes, and for which befor transportatione we obtained coasting coquets (a coppy quherof as approven by the atturney generall at London was transmitted to the lords of thesaury here and delyvered by them to the officers of her Majesties customes) upon quhich we had good ground to rest secure, yet to our great surprise we have informatione that not only our ships and goods are seized but the goods themselves made havock of and imbaizled (expressly contrair to the articles of union) our seamen impressed and our ships therby rendered useless, which treatment is so unsupportable that all these promised advantages by the union are like to be so many traps to ensnare ws which in end must turn to our inevitable ruine, for if our effects be seised and our ships laid up and taken from ws by violence wher shall we have any hopes left ws for trade. These our greivances we have thought fitt to lay befor your honours, the representatives of the royall burrows in conventione assembled, that yow in your prudence may address her Majestie in such termes as the present emergent of so much import and concern to the natione doth require. May it therfor please your honours seriously to consider of what we have above represented and to lay our case before her Majestie. Which being considered by the conventione, they remitted the consideratione therof to the burghs of Edinburgh, Dundie, Stirling, St. Andrews, Kirkaldie, Montross, Dunbarton and Annan, wherof three to be a quorum, as a committe to draw up ane address to be presented to her Majestie in relatione to the said affair, and recomended to the said committe to take advice of my lord advocat, Sir David Cuningham, Sir David Dalrymple, and Mr William Black; and appointed ther agent to deburse what money might be necessar in consulting the said affair; and accordingly the said committee brought in the

Address to her Majestie.

draught of ane address, the tennor wherof folloues: To the Queens most excellent Majestie, we your Majesties most loyall and dutyfull subjects, the generall convention of the royall burrows in this part of your Majesties United Kingdome called Scotland, do most humbly represent that having received severall grievous complaints from the trading merchants how that they upon the faith of the late treaty of union betuixt the tuo kingdomes,

EDINBURGH. 24 July 1707.

Adress to her Majestie.

ratified in both their parliaments, have from severall ports of Scotland sent to London and seuerall ports in England goods and merchandice alloued to be imported to Scotland and actually ther imported before the Union, for which they not only payed your Majesties duty but being resolved upon the faith of the said treaty to send them to England after due deliberatione they by warrand from England received coast coquets and other ordinary documents from your Majesties commissioners of the customes latly established, and did also to cutt of all pretext make faith befor the lords of your Majesties thesaury and exchequer and other judges that the goods were imported for their own propper account and upon their own proper risque. Notwithstanding wherof they have very surprising accounts from their correspondents in England that the commissioners of your Majesties customes ther have given orders to seise their ships and goods, and that some of them are actually seised and others both seised and imbazled, and that the best conditions they can obtain from your Majesties said commissioners in England are that they should give security or bail, in some cases for ship and cargo and in other cases for paying new and high dutyes at the determination of the British parliament, all which being in our humble apprehensione nothing agreeable but contrary to the faith of the said articles of treaty and a manifest disappointment of these advantages and incouragements that we still did and do firmly promise ourselves from your Majesties royall justice and most gracious government, and with all such visible hardships as must be the loss and even the ruin of many honnest traders who cannot bear their ships and goods to be thus incumbered by bail and law sutes or double and high dutyes and withall subjected to the delay and hazard of uncertain determinationes. We cannot but in the greatest submission wherof we are capable, and with a yet greater confidence of your Majesties royall justice and goodness, wherof we have had so great and innumerable proofs, lay the case befor your Majestie as it is, viz., that by the first article of the treaty of Union the tuo kingdomes are for ever united into one after the first of May last, which plainly after that day excludes the very notion of importatione or importers betuixt them and all former restrictions and penalties imposed therupon; and by the fourth article it is agreed that all the subjects of the said United Kingdome shall from and after the union have full freedome and intercourse of trade to and from any port or place within the

EDINBURGH. 24 July 1707.

Petitione, the merchants adress to her Majestie.

said United Kingdome, and that thair be a communicatione of all other rights and priviledges which do or may belong to the subjects of either kingdome, by which it is plain that we haue the same priviledge to transport our effects, notwithstanding of former restraints, from one part of Brittain to another, which your Majesties subjects of Berwick, Newcastle, Bristoll, &c., do enjoy, in importing now to Scotland without any controll all such goods both of English and forreign manufactur and grouth as were befor the union expressly prohibit by our laws; and farder by the tuenty fifth and last article of the said treaty it is statut and enacted that all laws and statuts in either kingdome, so far as they are contrary to and inconsistent with the articles of the union, shall from and after the unione cease and become void, wherby it evidently appears that the prohibitions and restrictions that might have been of force on either side whill we were seperat kingdomes are now made void and for ever to ceas. Being then founded upon such clear and evident grounds, and yet much more upon the assuring experiences that we have aluise had of your Majesties justice, equity, and unparalleled goodness, we do with all submission and humility beseech and obtest your Majestie that you would be pleased to give such ordors to your high thesaurer and commissioners of customes and others in England that the aforsaid heavy and vexatious grievances may be remeeded and removed, that so the hearts and interests of all your good subjects may be united, to your Majesties satisfactione and perpetuall glory. Signed at Edinburgh the 25 July 1707 years, in name and by appointment of the conventione, by, *Sic subscribitur:* SA. M'CLELLAN, *preses.* Which address being considered by the conventione, they unanimously approved therof and appointed Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, their preses, to signe the same in their name, and letters to be written to his grace the Duke of Queensberry, his grace the Duke of Roxburgh, the principal secretaries of state, and Mr Gilbert Steuart, merchant, and signed by their said preses; and doubles of the said address to be transmitted in the saids letters; and appointed the principall signed address to be transmitted to the Earle of Marr, secretary of state, attending for the time, in order to be laid befor her Majestie.

Letters to court.

Folloues the tennor of the said letters:—May it please your —— The convention of the royall burrows having received from severall merchants the surprising account of their ships being seized and goods imbazled at

London, does oblige ws to send our humble address to her Majestie, wherof your —— hes the just coppy inclosed in behalf of these persons concerned, who as they are very numerous so many of them hes a great part if not all their estates at the stake and your —— may easily consider how amusing it is and what may be the consequents if not timously remeeded. The conventione, from the many proofs they have had of your —— favour to the royall borrows, doe humbly desire and expect that, upon this extraordinary exigence, yow will be pleased to grant your assistance for extricating ws of the present difficulty which as it will be a most seasonable help to your —— oun native countrey, so ane singular obligatione upon the royall burrous on all occasions to acknouledge, may it please, etc. Postscript for the secretaries:—Your lordships may be pleased to direct your return to the provest of Edinburgh who will call the committe of the royall burrows appointed for trade, and communicat to them your lordships ansuer. The address and letters are to be sent auay this night by a flying packet. EDINBURGH. 24 July 1707. Letters to court.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *anent Unfree Traders, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 5 August 1707.

Edinburgh, William Neilsone; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Stirling, John Erskine; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smollett; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie. [Twenty burghs *blank*]. Sederunt.

5 August 1707.

1. Sir Samuel M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Appointed a committee to visit Frasersburgh and to see the proportion of unfree trade undertaken by the town equally imposed. Frasersburgh.

3. Instructed the agent to cite the towns of Dalkeith, Prestonpanns, and Borroustounness to appear before the committee on Tuesday next. Towns to be cited.

4. Ordained the agent to advance to the burgh of Bruntisland a sum not exceeding £50 sterling, including the 500 marks Scots formerly given, for repairing their harbour and pier, the inhabitants being required "to contribute their pains gratis touards the said reparatione." Bruntisland, £150.

5. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provest of Edinburgh, produced to the committe ane misive letter direct to them from the Earle of Marr, one Letters from the secretaries of state and others.

EDINBURGH. 5 August 1707.

Letters from the secretaries of state and others.

of the principall secretaries of state, another from the Earl of Loudoun, the other principall secretary of state, a third from Sir David Nairn, under secretary, and a fourth from Gilbert Steuart, merchant, all informing that the presenting the burrows adress to the Queen was delayed till it appeared what would be the event of the conference betuixt the merchants and attorney and solicitors generall, to whom the merchants petitione was remitted by the Queen and counsell, and also assuring that nothing should be wanting on their parts to advance the interest of the natione in this junctur.

Assistance to merchants.

6. The committe, upon a representatioun from severall merchants, representing that they had gott severall citations to compear befor the lords of her Majesties exchequer anent their trading, do appoint Sir Robert Forbes, agent to the royall burrows, and Mr William Black, advocat, to concurr with and assist the merchants in their defences in the terms of law.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *appointed by the 35th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

1 September 1707.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilsone; Perth, James Crie; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Stirling, John Ærskin; Glasgow, John Aird; Dumfreis, William Copland; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnston.

Preses.

1. Sir Samuel M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Equivalent money.

2. The committe having mett in order to call for the certificat of the burrows subscription for three thousand pounds sterling in the Indian Companies books, and for payment of what is due to them therancnt, the said committe do hereby give warrand to Sir Robert Forbes, agent to the royall burrows, to receive the said certificat from the said company.

EDINBURGH. 1 September 1707.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *anent Unfree Traders, held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilson; Perth, James Crie; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Stirling, John Ærskine; Glasgow, John Aird; Dumfreis, William Copland; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnstone.

1 September 1707.

EDINBURGH. 1 September 1707.

Act in favours of Jedburgh.

1. The commissioners appointed by the 13th act of the general convention in July 1706 having made their report, and the committee having seen the council book of the burgh, they again appointed a committee to meet at Jedburgh on 15th October next, to endeavour to compose all differences amongst the inhabitants of the burgh in relation to their public concerns, and to inquire into the condition thereof and report to next general convention.

Proportions of the equivalent.

2. The committe for manageing the equivalent approve of the calcul made by John Dicksone, accomptant to the good toun of Edinburgh, of each of the royall burghs proportions, conforme to the taxt rolls at the time of the respective advances, and appointed the same to be recorded and to be the standart of each burghs payment, wherof the tennor followes:—

	1st Moyete.*			2nd & 3rd Moyete.†			4th Moyete.‡			Totalis.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Edinburgh	4,648	16	0	2,820	0	0	986	10	0	8,455	6	0
Perth	431	5	0	169	4	0	96	0	0	696	9	0
Dundie	670	16	0	282	0	0	113	15	6	1,066	11	6
Aberdeen	869	13	0	317	5	0	148	5	0	1,335	3	0
Stirling	206	0	0	77	11	0	41	17	0	325	8	0
Linlithgow	186	17	0	105	15	0	36	18	10	329	10	10
St Andrews	86	5	0	28	4	0	11	1	8	127	10	8
Glasgow	2,156	5	0	1,057	10	0	419	12	6	3,633	7	6
Air	153	6	0	75	4	0	27	9	10	255	19	10
Haddingtoun	230	0	0	77	11	0	28	6	4	335	17	4
Dysert	35	18	0	10	11	0	3	13	10	50	2	10
Kirkcaldie	345	0	0	115	3	0	37	15	4	497	18	4
Montross	287	10	0	94	0	0	59	2	0	440	12	0
Couper	129	7	0	52	17	0	18	9	4	201	3	4
Anstruther Easter	21	11	0	7	1	0	3	13	10	32	5	10
Dumfreis	275	10	0	136	6	0	50	9	8	462	5	8
Inverness	215	12	0	77	11	0	51	14	4	344	17	4
Burntisland	86	5	0	21	3	0	7	7	8	114	15	8
Inerkeithing	35	18	0	17	12	0	6	3	2	59	13	2
Kinghorn	50	6	0	24	13	0	8	12	4	83	11	4
Brichen	64	13	0	24	13	0	8	12	4	97	18	4
Irving	71	17	0	35	5	0	12	18	6	120	0	6

* 1st Moyete, £9000; annualrent therof from 1st of August 1698 to 1st May 1707, £3937, 10s.

† 2nd Moyete, £2700; annualrent therof to the 1st May 1707, £1129, 10s. 3rd Moyete £1800; annualrent therof from Whitsunday 1699 to 1st May 1707, £716, 5s.

‡ 4th Moyete, £1800; annualrent therof from Mertinmas 1699 and Candlemas 1700 to the 1st of May 1707, £663, 12s.

EDINBURGH. 1 September 1707.

Proportions of the equivalent.

	1st Moyete.			2nd Moyete.			3rd Moyete.			Totalis.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Jedburgh	122	3	0	91	13	0	32	0	4	246	0	0
Kirkudbright	43	2	0	21	3	0	7	7	10	71	12	10
Wigtown	43	2	0	21	3	0	7	7	10	71	12	10
Pittenweem	35	18	0	10	11	0	8	12	6	55	1	6
Dumfermling	107	16	0	49	7	0	24	12	6	181	15	6
Anstruther Wester	7	3	0	3	10	0	1	4	6	11	17	6
Selkirk	86	5	0	35	5	0	12	6	4	133	16	4
Dunbartoun	35	18	0	17	12	0	6	15	4	60	5	4
Renfrew	43	2	0	14	2	0	6	3	2	63	7	4
Dunbar	71	17	0	28	4	0	9	17	0	109	18	0
Lanerk	71	17	0	31	14	0	12	6	4	115	17	4
Aberbrothock	64	13	0	24	13	0	7	7	8	96	13	8
Elgin	165	6	0	63	9	0	30	15	10	259	10	10
Peebles	79	1	0	35	5	0	12	6	4	126	12	4
Craill	43	2	0	14	2	0	4	18	6	62	2	6
Tain	35	18	0	14	2	0	4	18	6	54	18	6
Culross	28	15	0	10	11	0	3	13	10	42	19	10
Bamff	50	6	0	21	3	0	7	7	8	78	16	8
Whithern	9	11	8	3	10	6	4	18	6	18	0	8
Forfar	28	15	0	10	11	0	3	13	10	42	19	10
Rothesay	35	18	0	17	12	0	6	3	2	59	13	2
Nairn	10	15	0	3	10	6	3	13	10	17	19	4
Forras	28	15	0	10	11	0	7	7	8	46	13	8
Ruthglen	14	7	6	7	1	0	3	13	10	25	2	4
Northberwick	7	3	10	3	10	6	1	4	8	11	19	0
Cullen	9	11	8	3	10	6	1	4	8	14	6	2
Lauder	35	18	10	17	12	0	6	3	2	59	14	0
Kilrenny	9	11	8	3	10	6	1	4	6	14	6	8
Annan	14	7	6	7	1	0	2	9	4	23	17	10
Lochmaben	21	11	4	3	10	6	1	4	8	26	6	6
Sanquhar	7	3	10	3	10	6	1	4	8	11	19	0
Neugallanay	7	3	10	3	10	6	1	4	8	11	19	0
Dinguall	9	11	8	3	10	6	1	4	8	14	6	10
Dornock	21	11	4	3	10	6	1	4	8	26	6	6
Queensferry	64	13	8	24	13	0	8	12	6	97	19	2
Fortrose	21	11	4	7	1	0	2	9	4	31	1	8
Kintoir	10	15	8	3	10	6	1	4	8	15	10	2
Inverurie	28	15	0	3	10	6	1	4	8	33	10	2
Innerarie	14	7	6	3	10	6	1	4	8	19	2	8
Week	23	19	2	10	11	0	3	13	10	38	4	0
Kirkwall	86	5	0	42	6	0	14	15	6	143	6	6
Inverbervie	7	3	8	3	10	6	1	4	8	11	18	10
Stranraer	14	7	6	7	1	0	2	9	4	23	17	10
	12,937	10	0	6,345	15	0	2,463	12	0	21,746	17	0

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *appointed by the 35th act of last General Convention held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 2 September 1707.

2 September 1707.

Edinburgh, William Neilsone; Perth, James Crie; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Stirling, John Ærskin; Glasgow, John Aird; Dumfreis, William Copland; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnston. Sederunt.

1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Authorised the agent to "uplift and receive from the commissioners of the equivalent what shall be due to the saids burrows, conforme to their subscription for three thousand pounds sterling in the Affrican Companies books." Agent to receive money.

3. Appointed the agent to pay to the burghs their respective shares of the equivalent "conforme to the calcuill already made and recorded in the burrow book." Agent to pay burghs' shares.

4. The committe, upon a representation by the provest of Glasgow that it appeared by the public prints that the parliament of Ireland designed to impose six pence sterling per elln of all linnen imported to Ireland, which would be prejudiciall to this part of the United Kingdome, it is the opinion of the committe that my lord provest of Edinburgh, with any other of the committe in toun, may address the chancellor or counsell that they would interpose to prevent so great a prejudice to our linnen manufactory. Impost on linen in Ireland.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *for Advancing Trade, appointed by the 34th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 8 October 1707.

Edinburgh, William Neilson; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, George Yeaman; Stirling, John Ærskin; Glasgow, John Aird; Kirkaldie, James Oswald; Dunbar, Robert Kellie. Sederunt.

8 October 1707.

1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The committee appointed the missive letter direct to the lord provest of Edinburgh from the Earle of Marr, one of the principall secretaries of state, dated the fifth of August last to be recorded, whereof the tennor followes:—My lord, since my last, the Duke of Queensberry, the Earle of Loudoun, and I, were at Windsore about the affair of the Scots merchants. Letter from Secretary of State.

EDINBURGH. 8 October 1707.

Letter from Secretary of State.

Wee waited on the Queen and the treasurer and told what was the lawers oppinion in this affair who the merchants had consulted. The attorney and solicitor generall had a report ready to give in to the Queen in councill of what had past betuixt the merchants and them, but upon our talking with them they said if the merchants lawyers and they were mett they doubted not but they would come to ane agreement to both their likeings, so it was thought expedient to delay giving in their report till once this meeting was over, which the merchants approved of. However, we thought we could not keep the address any longer in our hands without presenting it to her Majestie, so the Duke of Queensberry and the Earle of Loudoun and I waited on the Queen with it and read it to her. She was pleased to give this answer that it would alwayes be her care to see the articles of the Union observed and particularly what concern'd the royall burrowes. As to the particular for which they addrest she had put that affair in such a method that she hopt would end quickly to their satisfactione.

In talking we were told that there was a necessity to have this affair put in some way of examinatione that those to whom the goods belonged might be discovered, to the end that those who are not Scotsmen might not shelter themselves under that cloke and so hurt the fair traders both of Scotland and England. This imbara of the trade at the beginning of the union was very unluckie, but it can never happen againe, and since the occasion of it was not to prejudge the fair traders, but otherwayes, and will be now, I hope, accomodat, I hope ther will be no more uneasiness about it in Scotland. The Queen hes all along shown all the desire imaginable to have this affair adjusted, and these two lords and I have been at all the pains we could and used all our interest to have it determined to the satisfactione of our countrey, and as it was our duty so I assure you we shall continue in this and every thing ells so farr as in our pouer. You'll communicat this to the conventione of the royall burrows, and I am, my lord, your most humble servant. *Sic subscribitur :* MAR.

9 October 1707.

Recommendation to call a conventione.

3. The committe considering that the parliament of Great Brittain is shortly to meet, do therefor recomend to Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provest of Edinburgh, to call a conventione, *pro re nata*, to meet at Edin-

burgh the eighteen day of November next, in order to consider what relates to the trade of this part of the United Kingdome or what concerns the estate of the royall burrows, and that the said lord provest by the missive acquaint each burgh to send up their representative fully instructed theranent, and also as to what concerns the trade of each particular burgh and countries therabout. EDINBURGH. 9 October 1707. Recommendation to call a convention.

4. The committe recomends to Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provest of Edinburgh, to write to Sir Patrick Johnston, late provest of the said burgh, after his arrivall at London, intreating his uttmost care in what concerns the merchants in this part of the United Kingdome, the trade in generall or estate of the royall burghs thair, and for doing the same more effectually to call for the assistance of the other representatives of North Brittain, and to acquaint the lord provest of Edinburgh from time to time with what occurs theranent. Recommended to write to Sir Patrick Johnston.

5. It being represented by severall members of the committe that diverse illegal exactions are made upon the liedges by the officers of the custome houses, therfor the committe recomends to the lord provest of Edinburgh to take care that some of the members of the committe doe lay the same before the commissioners of the customes in order to have the same redressed. Exactions by officers of custom houses.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 23 October 1707.

23 October 1707.

1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Anent the petitione given in be Thomas Donaldson of Kinairdy, merchant, burges of Elgin, for himself and these that adhere to him, shewing that wher upon differences arising in our burgh and applicatione made to the conventione of burrows, ther was by their appointment a sett and rule of electione and government made for the burgh in the year j^{m} vij^{c} and five, wherby we judged that all differences might have been prevented in time coming, but now at this last electione, when we thought to have proceeded orderly and peaceably conforme to the said sett, a party amongst us did factiously so influence the elections and cary the magistracy that we, tho the plurality, viz., of nyn of seventen, are in a manner excluded, for the forsaid party contriving how to cary it did not only Complaint against wrongous election in Elgin.

Edinburgh. 23 October 1707.

Complaint against wrongous election in Elgin.

admitt non residenters to be elected contrairy to our sett and assume two votts for one to their chairman without any necessity, and likewise chuse a perfect novice to be a baillie who had neither been counsellor or so much as residenter in the burgh save since June last, on purpose to strengthen their factione, but farder, they knowing or fearing that we would make the plurality, they procured Alexander Innes, one of our number, to be shut up within walls as he was coming to the elections, and ther detained him forcibly, and albeit this was immediately represented to the provest and the meeting that they might take off the restraint yet they refused to doe it, as ane instrument taken therupon testifies; whereby it is evident that they made the said violence their own and did ratihabit the said restraint, which plainly renders their proceeding therafter void; and now seeing the conventione of burrows did wisely provyde that differences and debates of this nature should be brought before the conventione and by them terminat, and we being most willing to acquiesce to the judgement of the conventione, for the good and peace of the place, wherby necessary it is for us to have your honours warrand to intimat this our complaint to the other party, and to advertise them to compear and make ansuer before your honours, therfor craving the commite to consider the complaint and to grant warrand to them to intimat the same to Mr William Sutherland, provest, and the rest of his adherents, that they may be ready to answer at the meeting of the burrows in November next, and to ordain the said Mr William Sutherland and his adherents in the meantime to see and ansuer that the burrows give judgement for setleing the present difference in finding the forsaid wrongous electione void and ordaining a new one, agreeable to the said sett and the constitutione of the burgh, as the petitione bears. Which being considered by the committe, they granted the desire therof, and ordained the same to be intimat and a full double therof given to the said Mr William Sutherland for himself and his adherents, and allowed him and them to send up any one of their number sufficiently instructed for the rest to ansuer to the above complaint and underlye the judgement of the royall burrows, and that upon the eighten day of November next, at Edinburgh, where the royall burrows meet, with continuatione of days; as also gave warrand to cite witnesses against the said day.

PARTICULAR CONVENTION *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 18 November 1707.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilson and John Mirrie; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, George Yeaman; Aberdeen, John Ross; Stirling, John Ærskin; Linlithgow, James Buncle; Glasgow, Robert Rodger; Hadington, Alexander Edgar; Dysert, John Black; Kirkaldie, James Oswald; Anstruther Easter, James Graham; Dunfreis, William Copland; Inverness, Mr Alexander Clark; Innerkeithing, James Dudgeon; Breichen, Mr James Graham; Irving, Mr John Marshell; Jedburgh, John Smith; Kirkudbright, Hugh Fullerton; Pittenweem, Mr Robert Cook; Dunfermling, John Veitch; Selkirk, Robert Scott; Dunbarton, Sir James Smollet; Dunbar, William Faa; Lanerk, William Inglis; Peebles, John Tueedy; Craill, Henry Craufoord; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Rothesay, Mr Dougall Steuart; Forras, John Findlay; Northberuick, Sir Hugh Dalrymple; Lauder, Sir David Cunningham; Kilrenny, James Peacock; Annan, Mr William Johnstone; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Week, James Murray; Campbeltoun, Mr Neill Campble. (Twenty-nine burghs *blank*.)

18 November 1707.

1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. Approved of the whole commissions. Members who had not previously qualified took the oath and subscribed the assurance. Members qualified.

3. Appointed a committee to consider the missive and what overtures may be remitted to them for the encouragement of trade. Committe.

25 November 1707.

4. Upon a report from the comite to whom the consideratione of the present missive was remitted, the conventione approved of severall overtures for the encouragement of trade to be presented to the parliament, wherof the tennor followes:—Overtures from the royall burrows of Scotland for the encouragement of trade. (1°) That ther be payed for each hundred of codd, ling, or syth fish, either dry or in pyle, being tuelve and within eighteen inches long, ane premium of sixteen shillings and eight pence to the exporter as the just proportione appointed by act of parliament for fishes of that kind of a greater seize. The reasone is that albeit the act of parliament only mentions a drawback upon fishes of a greater seize yet the demand for the smaller seize is as great proportionally in Malaga and some other ports in the straits as ther is for the greater fish and must be cured with forreign salt as well as the other. Overtures approven.

EDINBURGH. 25 November 1707.

Overtures approven.

(2°) That in respect it hes been customary in this part of the Island to export cod, ling, and syth fish in barrell, that therfor the same drauback be alloued for each barrell of codd, ling and syth when exported as is allowed for the herrings. The reasone is that for the conveniency of sorting a cargoe ther must be cod barrelled which is a loss to the merchant who would have more drauback in proportione when in pyle then when barrelled, also ther are some mercats wher barreled codd is in greater demand then in pyle.

(3°) That seeing ther arises some differences anent the payment of the drauback upon fish cured with forreign salt, imported befor the first of May last, that it be recomended to the officers of the custome house to pay the draubacks without distinctione of fishes cured in the terms of the articles whither the salt was imported befor the Union or since.

(4°) That the materialls for fishing such as clapboard, barrell staves, and hemp for netts and lines, &c., be continued to be free of duty as formerly. The reason is that by the laws of Scotland, for encouragement of fishing, which is the most valuable branch of trade and every way beneficiall to the natione, all materialls for fishing are free of duty ; and considering that the encouragement of fishing will be a nurserie for seamen the granting therof will be a mean both to encreass shiping and seamen to the great advantage of the United Kingdome.

(5°) That seeing by the articles of union our fish must be cured with forreign salt, and that we have litle trade with Spain or Portugall, that therfor during the warr we may be allowed to import forreign salt from any place not in enmity with her Majestie. The reasone is we are not furnished with convenient ships for bringing salt from Spain or Portugall, and the act of navigatione hath been dispenced with in such emergents, as particularly seuerall species of goods hath been alloued to be imported from Holland by speciall licences, which is not the product of the countrey.

(6°) That none but her Majesties British subjects have liberty to cure fish for export upon any part of the lands, herbours, or creiks of this United Kingdome or islands therto belonging. The reasone is the Hamburghers and others set up a trade in buying and curing fish in Zetland and other places and import to these places all sorts of forreign commodities, wherby not only our natives are prejudged but also her Majesties customes in these remott parts altogether disappointed.

EDINBURGH. 25 November 1707.

Overtures approven.

(7°) The salmond fishing being one of the most valuable branches of trade in Scotland, it is reasonable the laws theranent should not only be ratified but that the fynes upon killers of salmond in forbidden tyme and the destroyers of frye or smolts of salmond should also be augmented, and the laws appointed to be duly execut, and wheras formerly the prohibitione of killing of salmond was from the eight of September to the thirty of November, it is thought fitt for the greater benefite of fishing that the time be altered and the prohibitione commence from the first of September and continue to the first of January yearly, and that the laws relating to salmond fishing take effect on the river of Tueed and rivers or waters running to Sollauay as in other places. It is also convenient that the bind of the salmond barrell in Scotland be continued as being most beneficiall for tade. The reasone is, wheras formerly ther hes been exported from Scotland ten thousand barrells of salmond yearly, but by the killing of salmond in forbidden time and destroying of smolts this nationall product is reduced to a fourth part of what was exported befor the Revolutione; and as to the salmond barrell, experience hes proven that the fish keep much better and more free from gilting in a lesser then a greater bind and ther is great difficulty to procure barrell staves for a greater seize.

(8°) That in transporting fishes or other goods from one part of Brittain to another, in case any ship shall touch at any port by the way, the productione of their cocquet should free them of any further trouble, either by seizur or areistment, untill they come to the port of discharge.

(9°) That for encourageing of fishing, all oak timber and plank imported for building of ships should be free of duty. The reasone is we have few ships convenient for our trade, and in respect a great many have been taken in this warr and that we have not oak propper for building of ships, it would very much tend to the encouragement of trade if her Majestie would dispence with the duty of oak timber for building of ships, which aluayes hath been alloued for encouragement of shipping in this part of the Island.

(10°) For encouragement of trade, that a sufficient number of men of warr or friggots be appointed to remaine in the northern firths, that upon occasione they may receive orders for cruising on the coasts for convoying ships out and in, and that a fort be built at Brassie Sound in

EDINBURGH. 25 November 1707.

Overtures approven.

Zetland, another at Kerstoun in Orkney and other convenient places in the west, for security of shiping and trade, and that bassons in Leith and Burntisland, or any other convenient place be made, and navall stores be keeped for the use of her Majesties ships. The reasone is that the herbours of Brassie Sound in Zetland and Kerstoun in Orkney are convenient for herbouring the greatest fleets and ships of the greatest burden, and all ships from the straits, East and West Indies, that come north about, or the Russia fleet from Archangel, may harbour at these places, and if fortified might lye ther conveniently and securely to the great encouragement of trade; as also the having of cruizers for defence of our coast will prevent considerable losses, we having sustained great damnage last summer for want of cruizers and convoyes to secure our trade.

(11°) That we be alloued a port to which we may bring wool from Ireland for the benefite of our manufactories, inregaird South Brittain hath three ports for the importatione of wool that North Brittain may have one alloued them. The reasone is that we cannot consume our oun wool in manufactur without a mixture of fyn wool.

(12°) That a method be fallen upon for the ease and dispatch of merchants in Scotland in procuring certificats of plantatione bonds, Mediteranian and Queens passes, protections, &c., necessary in forraigne voyages. The reasone is that befor the necessary dispatches can be procured from London, ships may lose the opportunity of their voyage.

(13°) That for encouragement of tanning, the exporting of bark from Scotland to Ireland or any wher els be prohibit.

(14°) That ther be a further prorogatione of the exemptione granted to Scotland of the duty payable for coall, water born, transported from one part of Scotland to another, inrespect of the many navigable rivers of this part of the kingdome. The reasone is that most part of the coall of Scotland lyes in some few places and the greater part of the same cannot be supplied but by water born coall which will be ane unsupportable burden to the poor if any duty be laid thereon.

(15°) That the linnen cloath be made of well sorted yearn and of equall fynness and sufficiency from one end to the other, and that all broun linnen exposed to sale should be a yeard broad and each piece fourty elns, and half piece tuenty elns, and quarter piece ten elns; and that all linnen for bleitching be woven yeard and tuo inches broad or three

quarters of ane yeard and tuo inches, that when bleitched it may be full yeard or three-quarters of a yeard broad; and that befor exposing it to sale the ouner shall procure to each piece, half piece, or quarter piece, a seall bearing the impressione of a thistle and the name of the toun wher it was sealled, and after it receives the seall that the same be bought upon the faith therof, and that the sealmaster be lyable in case any broun or whyt linnen shall be sealled not of equall sufficiency, fynness, breadth or length abovementioned, conforme to the Scots acts of parliament made theranent; and for that effect that all the weavers of Scotland doe furthwith make the cloaths abovementioned in the terms of the said acts and immediately provyde looms fitted for that end, with certificatione that if any shall be found after the first of November j^{m} vij^{c} and eight years to weave the forsaid cloath otheruise then is above proposed they shall be lyable in the summ of (*blank*), and the cloath otheruayes woven shall be seized by any persone and the one half applyed for the use of the poor and the other half to the apprehender, and both buyer and seller to be over and above the said confiscatione lyeable in the sum of (*blank*).

EDINBURGH. 25 November 1707.

Overtures approven.

(16°) That fingrams, plaidings, searges and drogets, made for export, may be woven of one sort of wool of equall fynness and sufficiency from one end to the other, and that each piece of plaiding, fingrame or wolen droget, be three quarters of a yeard and tuo and a half inches broad, and that each piece of searge be yeard and tuo inches broad and containe fifty six elns, and the half piece tuenty eight elns and the quarter piece fourteen elns, and that the same be alloued to be exported whol as formerly; as also that when the said plaiding, fingrames, drogget or searges, be put to sale that they be made up in folds of ane yeard or three quarters length and not rolled as befor, and that the owner procure to each piece, half piece, or quarter piece, a seall in the same manner and under the same penalties as are above prescribed for the linnen cloath.

(17°) That for the better improvement of stocking manufactures it is thought fitt that for hereafter all prick stockings may be made of three plyed wosten and of due proportione.

(18°) Inregard by the articles of the treaty ther is no bounty money provyded for the encouragement of the export of oats, that a reasonable bounty money be alloued for each quarter of oats exported, proportionable to what is alloued for oat meall and other grain.

EDINBURGH. 26 November 1707.

26 November 1707.

Overtures to be transmitted to Sir Patrick Johnstone.

5. The conventione appoints the above overtures to be transmitted to Sir Patrick Johnstone, the representative of the burgh of Edinburgh in the parliament of Great Brittain, to be laid by him before the said parliament, and remitted to the commissioners for the burghs of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Stirling, Dumfreis, Dunbarton and Annan, to draw up letters to be sent to the lord chancellor of Scotland, his grace the Duke of Queensberry, the principal secretaries of state, and Mr Francis Montgomerie, to be communicat by him to the rest of the barrons, and to Sir Patrick Johnstone to be communicat by him to the representatives of the burrows; which letters being read were approven, the tennor wherof followes, with power to the said lord provest to writ to such others of the nobility as his lordship shall think fitt.

Letter to the lord chancellor, etc.

6. Ther being a conventione of the royal burrows called to consider upon the most effectuall methods for promotting of trade, and after severall dayes sitting and imploying their thoughts on that subject they have prepared some overtures which are judged by them most necessar to be represented to the parliament and have transmitted to your lordship ane just coppy therof, which they humbly desire your lordship may be pleased to peruse and communicat your thoughts therof to Sir Patrick Johnston, whom we have desired to attend your lordship for that effect. My lord, this being the most proper seasone of makeing applicatione, and that we are therunto encouraged by her Majesties most gracious speech, and likeuise that we are so happy in having so great and noble patrons and well wishers of your native countrey, we are very hopefull that the high and honorabill court of parliament will take nottice of our address in such manner as may not only conduce to the flourishing of this part of the United Kingdome but also the wholl Island, which is all that is designed by this trouble given to your lordships, by, my lord, etc.

Letter to the principall secretaries of state.

7 My lord. The state of the salmond fishing being laid befor the burrows, they were universally complained of as much decayed by the killing of salmond in forbidden time and destroying the frye and smolts, the commissioners of the northern burrows in the shires of Mearns, Aberdeen, Elgin, Forras, and Inverness informed us that for preventing these former abuses they had applyed to Colonel Grant, commander of the inde-

pendent company in that district, that he would use some endeavours by appointing watches in the high countrey, at the heads and branches of the rivers wher salmond usually spaun, which he had done with that good success that his endeavours in that matter hes been more effectuall in six months then all the former methods used in executing the laws by citatione, sentances, and other dilligence hes done these tuenty years. The burrows have therfor thought fitt to applye to your lordship that Colonell Grants company may be keeped up, and seeing the greatest and most valuable salmond fishings within this part of North Brittain lye within the district committed to his care, and that the rivers and branches therof are many and will require a greater number of men then presently by the establishment are contained in his company, that therfor his company may not only be freed of any of their being draun for recruits, in regaird his men are best knoun to the creeks and branches of the rivers, but that also the number of sentinalls may be augmented, and that your lordship will interpose with her Majestie for that effect, wherin we shall not doubt but your endeavours will be succesfull, the obtaining wherof tends to the preservatione of so valuable a branch of our trade in this part of the Island, which is all that is designed by this trouble given to your lordship by, my lord, [etc.]

EDINBURGH. 26 November 1707. Letters to the principall secretaries of state.

8. Right honorable. At this junctur the royall burrows have thought it their duty to meet in a generall conventione and to consider the matters of trade, and after some days spent therin have framed some overtures which they hope will meet with a generall acquiescence. They have transmitted a just double inclosed which they desire yow will be pleased to puruse and communicat to the rest of your honorable state who represent this countrey in parliament. The royall burrows doe most earnestly entreat yow will patronize them in this most important bussiness, seeing that the prosperity and flourishing of trade depend upon it, and we doe humbly think that persons of all ranks are much concerned, but more especially the barrons who cannot but be sensibly touched with our decay of trade, and will as sensibly feel the advantage of its encreass, so ther is no need to use arguments to gentlemen of your honour and penitratione, besides your interest in that subject, and therfor we lay it befor you as the good patriots of your native countrey to whom we wish all happiness as being, with great respect, your most humble and faithfull servant.

Letter to Mr Francis Montgomerie.

EDINBURGH. 26 November 1707.

Letter to Sir Patrick Johnstone.

9. Sir. The royall burrows having stayed together these severall dayes and imployed their thoughts most concernedly about the matters of trade, as judging it their proper province, they have at length framed a great dale of overturs which they hope will be found as well agreeable to the parliament as we think they are calculat for the benefite of trade. We are fully satisfied that much of the success in this affair will depend upon the management therof above, and think ourselves happy that you and so many other good members representing our state are upon the place who have formerly shoun their concern for the good of their countrey, and we need not use arguments to convince that this may be the propper seasone to relieve our languishing conditione and make us feel the benefites of the Union, so that we doe most earnestly solicit your care and dilligence in this important affair. You'll please delyver the inclosed as adressed, wherby yow will knou the contents by the copies inclosed, and now that the hapiness or misery of your native countrey depends much upon the event of this negotiatione ther can be no doubt of imploying your outmost endeavours, and that yow will from time to time correspond with the lord provest of Edinburgh that what is further necessary may be done by the royall burrows who resolve to evidence all the zeall possible in this matter. Meantyme they tender their due respects to yourself, which is all from your most humble servant.

All which letters the conventione appointed to be subscrivit by Sir Samuell M'Clellan, their preses, in their name, and to be transmitted to the forsaid persons with doubles of the saids overtures.

Agent to concurr with magistrats and counsell of Jedburgh.

10. The conventione, considering that by the report of the comitte of the burrows appointed to visit the burgh of Jedburgh it appears that ther hes been no misapplicatione or imbazlement of the commone good of the said burgh but that the same was applyed for the uttility therof though not distinctly stated, and that for composing of the differences ther it was ther opinione that some of the pursueris party be brought to the magistracy and into the toun counsell, which condescendence nevertheless did not please the pursueris of the proces against the magistrats; therfor the conventione appointed Sir Robert Forbes, agent to the royall burrows, to concurr with the magistrats and counsell of the said burgh in the actione intented and depending before the lords of sessione against them at the instance of some of the inhabitants therof, and witbal the

conventione recomended to these persons who were members of the said committe to goe and acquaint the lords of session with the state of the said affair and how, after much pains taken by them in order to adjust the said differences, yet all endeavours that way through the obstinacy of the pursuers proved fruitless and unsuccessfull. EDINBURGH. 26 November 1707.

11. Remitted to a committee to consider and report to next annual convention on an overture given in by the commissioner of Stirling "that Scotland being under ane inequality in fishing by reasone of the difference of the salt imployed in fishing and duty theron, that therfor the subjects of Scotland should be upon the same footing (with regard to the salt so farr as imployed in fishing) with the subjects of England, whereby the subjects of Scotland will be the better enabled and incouraged to prosecut the trad of fishing upon a just equality." Overture from Stirling.

12. Remitted to a committee to meet on Tuesday next to compose differences amongst the inhabitants of the burgh of Queensferry. Queensferry.

13. The same day was presented to the conventione ane overture from severall of the burrows of the southern and western shires, wherof the tennor folloues: That whereas by the article of the treaty of Union, the parliament of Scotland, in consideratione that the wool masters would be at a great loss by reasone of the strict prohibitione of the export of wool, did therfor appropriat fourteen thousand pounds sterling to be payed out of the equivalent in the space of seven years, being tuo thousand pounds yearly to be imployed for wool manufactories at the sight of the commissioners of the equivalent, as also seeing that tuo thousand pounds as the first payment fell due at Mertimas last and that a due effectuall applicatione of the said sum will not only be of use to the wool masters and to severall of the royall burrows in the southern and western shires, it is therfor desired the conventione may recomend to the commissioners of the equivalent to advance the said sum of tuo thousand pounds sterling to the severall burghs aftermentioned, according to the proportions after-specified, viz., [the burghs of Dumfreis, Jedburgh, Selkirk, Peebles and Kirkcudbright £400 sterling each,] and the burgh of Annan have also a pairt of the said equivalent proportionally with the rest of the saids burghs of the said first tuo thousand pounds sterling, and which proportions being payed to them respective, that the convention may ordain and appoint that each of the saids burghs shall imploy the sum received be them in manufactoring tarrd or laid wooll in such sort of manufactur as shall be Recomendation to the commissioners of the equivalent anent wool.

EDINBURGH. 26 November 1707.

most usefull, and for that end that they imploy the poor that are able to work and appoint servants for their oversight and directione, and that they be accountable for the sum received and due application therof yearly at the generall conventione that therby the commissioners of the equivalent may be satisfied the summs advanced in the terms aforsaid are duly applyed conforme to the act of parliament and articles of the treaty above specifiet; which being considered be the conventione they recomended the severall burrows abovenamed to the commissioners of the equivalent to the effect above mentioned.

Recomendation to the commissioners of the equivalent anent wool.

Letters to Duke of Argile and Earle of Leven.

14. The conventione recomended to the committe to sit after dissolving of this present conventione to writ to his grace the Duke of Argyle and the Earle of Leven that the exacting the assise upon herrings was very prejudiciall and discouraging to the herring fishing and that their lordships, as having right to the said assise, would be pleased to propose some expedient for removing the said grivance by obtaining some equivalent thairfor as they in their discretione should think fitt, and that their lordships would be pleased to acquaint the committe if it would be expedient or not to address her Majestie for that end, and that the committe send their reasons to these lords why the same should be taken auay.

27 November 1707.

Additione to the fiften overture.

15. The conventione appointed the following additione to be added to the fiften overture anent the linnen cloath and to be transmitted therwith as a part of the overture, viz. :—And in regard that the linnen cloath is so great a branch of trade and to be regulat in the breadth and length as aforsaid, and that befor the same can be made uniforme it will be very expensive to these concerned in making the said linnen to provyde looms and other necessar materialls for that effect, that for their farder encouragement all linnen to be exported be declared free of duty, in the same manner as the woolen cloath; and more especially considering that the present duty upon linnen exported will yeald a very small and inconsiderable duty to her Majestie, wheras by granting the forsaid exemptione a farr greater quantity of linnen cloath will be exported, and it is most obvious that the product and returns therof will very much add to her Majesties revenue by the duties that will arise from the saids returns.

EDINBURGH. 27 November 1707.

16. The conventione remitts the following overtures, viz., *primo*, that wheras ther are severall exactions made by the custome officers for fees, therfor that the board would please to give a particular table of these dues by which the merchants may know what they are to pay at the severall ports, as also what is to be payed for the oath, certificat, and registration of ships, barks, and veshells, which are deemed free by the articles of union ; *secundo*, that ther be severall small veshells and open boats, some of them not exceeding a chalder or tuo of coalls, and the place wher they load at being at a great distance from any custome house, that ther may be some effectuall method taken for preventing of the charge of coquets and other fees exacted theron at present, and in case they have any other goods to transport that ther may be custome house officers appointed, inrespect severrall places complain of this, such as Kirkcudbright which is tuenty four miles from any custome house, Frazersburgh and Peterhead more than the said distance, and Craill sixteen miles distance, Innerkeithing, and severall others; to the commissioners for the burghs of Edinburgh [and sixteen other burghs as a committee to meet after the dissolving of this convention], to use their endeavours to procure ane satisfieing answer to the saids overtures from the commissioners of her Majesties customes, in such due and competent time that unless they be redressed the same may be represented to the parliament. . . . . And farder the conventione recomended to the severall burrows to send up ane account to the committe of what fees have been exacted by the officers of her Majesties customes from any of their inhabitants since the commencement of the Union.

Overtures, customes.

Mr William Black's book to be considered.

17. The convention recomended to the committe appointed to sitt after disolving of this present convention to consider the book written be Mr William Black, advocat, anent the priviledges of the royall burrows.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE *anent unfree trade and staple, appointed by the 7th and 30th acts of the last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 4 December 1707.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilsone; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Stirling, John Ærskine ; Air, (*blank*) ; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet ; St Andrews, Alexander Watsone.

EDINBURGH. 4 December 1707.

4 December 1707.

Preses.

1. William Neilson, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Wrongous imprisonment in Campvere.

2. Anent the affair betuixt John Vere Kennedy, conservator, and Mr Alexander Clark and John Frazer, merchants in Inverness, who were detained prisoners at Campveer from 20th January to 15th March 1702, "through the said conservator his delaying of a legal tryall which was the occasione of great charges and expence" to them, the committee agreed that their damage and loss should be refunded to them and be determined at next meeting.

26 December 1707.

Allowance for wrongous imprisonment.

3. In pursuance of the preceding act, the committee found that the imprisonment of Clark and Frazer "was unwarrantable, and whereunto both the magistrats and conservator were accessory, and therefor it is the oppinione of the committe the summ of eleven hundred pounds Scots money be alloued to the saids Mr Alexander Clark and John Frazer in name of damnages and expence sustained by them through the said wrongous imprisonment; and the committe remitts to the next generall conventione to determine how farr the saids magistrats of Campvere and how farr the said John Vere Kennedy shall be lyable in payment of the said sum."

5 February 1708.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilson; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Stirling, John Ærskine; Annan, Mr William Johnston; St Andrews, Alexander Watsone; Air, Dysert, Dunbarton, Dunbar and Bamf, (*blank*).

Preses.

1. Sir Samuell M'Lellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Letters from her Majestie and toun of Campveer.

2. The committe having read her Majesties letter directed to the royal burrows, dated at Kingsingtoun the tuenty-seventh day of January $170\frac{7}{8}$ with ane English translation of the double of a letter in French from the toun of Campveer to her Majestie, they appointed and hereby appoint both the said letter and double to be recorded in the burgh book, as also appoint the wholl members of the committe to be acquainted to meet at Edinburgh in the ordinary place upon Tuesday come a fourthnight, being the tuenty fourth instant, to consider her Majesties said letter and draw ane ansuer therto, and in the meantime the committe recomends to Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provest of Edinburgh, to acquaint Sir David Nairn, secretary deput, with their resolutione taken hereanent; lykeas

EDINBURGH. 5th February 1708.

the committe in order to the discussing of the said affair more succesfully ordaine the wholl members who are in toun to meet upon Tuesday next at tuo of the clock in the afternoon to enquire into the matters complained of and to prepare the same against the meeting of the grand committe, of which letters the tennors follow:—*Sic superscribitur:* ANNE, R. Right trusty and well beloved, we greet you well. Whereas we did receive a letter from the toun of Campveer, dated 27th of August last, complaining in very pressing terms of continued infractions of the staple contract, to the great prejudice of the toun of Campveer and of that part of our kingdome who enjoy many considerable priviledges by vertue of the said contract, and wheras the envoy of the States Generall residing at our court has seconded the said letter by repeated instances to have the abuses complained of rectified and the transgressors punished, we have thought fitt by these to signifie to yow that it is our royall will and pleasure that the publick faith be inviolably keept on the part of our subjects, conforme to the staple contract, and we have herewith sent yow a copy of the forsaid letter from the town of Campveer to ws that yow may enquire into the matter therein contained, and if there have been contraveeners of the staple contract to enquire if they have been prosecut according to law, and that yow lay ane account of these matters before ws that we may give such further directions therein as may suit with our just and royall regard to our good allies, our tender concern for the preservatione of the privileges and advantages which belong to our subjects, and our great desire for the encouragement and encrease of trade. So we bidd yow heartily farewell. Given at our court at Kingsington, the 27th day of January $170\frac{7}{8}$ and of our reign the 6th year. By her Majesties command. *Sic subscribitur:* MAR.

Letters from her Majestie and toun of Campvere.

Her Majesties letter to the royall burrows.

MADAM.—After we had taken the liberty in the moneth of June in the year 1703 to present humbly to your Majestie our just complaints concerning the continuall breaches of the staple contract by your Majesties subjects in that part of Great Brittain formerly called Scotland, and that in the issue it had pleased your Majestie graciously to writ upon that affair in favours of our city to the commissioners of the royall burrows concerned in trade in such pressing terms, we were made to hope that by so favourable a dispositione on your Majesties part we might at length reap the true sweats

Letter from Campveer to her Majestie.

EDINBURGH. 5 February 1708.

Letter from Campveer to her Majestie.

so long in vain looked for from a contract which cost ws so dear and by which the Brittish natione enjoy so many priviledges, immunities, and other advantages of trade very considerable in this city. But on the contrair we find ourselues yet obliged to remonstrat, with all submissione, to your Majestie, that these affairs are in a worse conditione at present then hitherto, without the least instance of amending so nottar and inexcusable contraventions, which hath so encouraged the breach that the merchants and masters of ships haue not only dared publickly to refuse to come to this city under the convoy which the states of this province of Zeland, at our reiterat solicitations, had sent of purpose to Edinburgh about the last spring (the ordinary time stipulat by the said contract) to make the last essay, but, moreover, at the same time they took the occasione of ane English convoy, and a litle after of ane Dutch convoy, to come to Rotterdam, to the number of more then seventy, loaden with staple commodities; in so much that the convoy of this province after having remained to no purpose more then a moneth in the road of Leith was obliged to return hither only with three or four small barks which arrived at the staple port. Upon all which we are resolved for our intier exoneratione to intimat of new to the royall burrows of North Brittain who are in contract with ws, and to demand of them ane just and satisfactory reparatione, but as we are persuaded that these last efforts with them, as well as all our other successive protestations upon this head, will be fruitless, unless actually backed and seconded by a new declaratione of your Majesties will to the saids burrows and ministers of state of that part of your kingdome and to whom your Majestie shall think fitt. Wee presume once more to intreat your Majestie with profound respect that you would be pleased to honour ws with your sovereigne protectione, to the end we may once succeed in so just and reasonable demands, believing that we may at present demand this favour of your Majestie with more hope and appearance of success then ever, in so much as by the fruitless expeditione of a convoy so sufficient, and arriving at the prefixt time, the breakers of the contract are deprived of every excuse and pretext which they made use of hitherto to elude the laws and sincere intentione of your Majestie and to lay the blame of their not performing their part of the contract, if it had been possible, upon ws. Expecting then this favour from your Majesties goodness, we pray God,

with all our heart, may take your sacred persone under his pouerful and divine safeguard and may encreass more and more the prosperity and glory of your reign, to the good of your subjects and for the commone interest of all Europe. These are the ardent wishes of your Majesties most humble and most obedient servants, [etc.] Campveer, 27 August 1707. EDINBURGH. 5 February 1708. Letter from Campveer to her Majestie.

10 February 1708.

Edinburgh, Mr William Neilson; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; St Androws, Alexander Watsone; Annan, Mr William Johnstone. Sederunt.

1. Sir Samuell M'Lellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The committe, after reading ane English translatione of a letter in Dutch from the toun of Campveer to the royall burrows, dated the second day of July j^{m} vij^{c} and seven years, appointed the samen to be recorded; and ordained Sir Androw Kennedy, conservator, as soon as possible to give in a memoriall to the committe of all the breaches of the staple contract since the year of God *(blank)*. Followes the tennor of the forsaid letter:—Noble and honourable lords. Although we can scarce promise ourselves better success upon this present then upon the many complaints without redress formerly made with so much earnest in our successive letters, remonstrances and protestations, almost to every conventione of the royall burrows, of the breaches and contraventions of the staple contract, yet we would not forbear (for our full exoneratione) to writ yow this one time more upon that subject and hereby to notefie to your lordships the just reasons of displeasure that have now againe of late been given ws, which we think we can at this time doe with as much ground and convictione as ever befor, seeing the states of Zealand, upon our repeated intreaties to deprive the backward of all sorts of subterfuge by which they have hitherto endeavoured to paliat their notorious transgressions to elide the good laws and directions (and if possible to bring the blame upon us), send timeous and sufficient convoy once more to experiment what ships would come hither under the protectione thereof, but so farr from that that the skippers and merchants, my lords, subject to your jurisdictione, did take this opportunity of sending their goods with safety to the staple place as they indeed are obliged to doe, but on the contrary we heard that severalls openly declared they would not put themselves under that convoy, The toun of Campveers letter to the burrows.

Edinburgh. 10 February 1708.

The toun of Campveers letter to the burrows.

but shortly after the departur of the said convoy with three or four small vessels only, two wholl fleets, the first under ane English and the last under a Hollands convoy, arrived at Rotterdam, with a vast quantity of staple goods, so that this one example so prejudiciall to our toun ought once to open your lordships eyes and to cause yow see that all the exceptions that the transgressors have hitherto made about the want of timeous convoy have been nothing ells but meer excuses to committ their transgressions unpunished. Wee must acknowledge that we cannot comprehend how a natione so famous for their integrity and exact keeping of their word can, in prejudice of the publick faith, break and transgress so solemn a contract (the fundatione whereof was laid two hundred years agoe upon a mutual hermony and faith and which hath been kept on both sides thus long with so much exactness and sincerity) as if there were no tye nor obligatione on either side. Lykeas, upon this occassione, we cannot but shew your lordships that we very much strange that your lordships has not hitherto ansuered our last letter dated the fourth of July j^{m} vij^{c} and five, in which we desired the ratificatione of the latter agreement made in the year j^{m} vij^{c} and two, so much the more that in it the life and executione of the wholl staple contract is contained and without which (in our opinione) no redress of the decay of the staple can be expected. Therefore, for brevities sake, we refer your lordships to the contents of our said last letter and to our other just complaints made from time to time. We expect that your lordships will, with more zeall then hes hitherto been shewn, consider the affairs of the staple, cause punish the transgressors as they deserve, and prevent all further grounds of discontent and loss of our toun and the inhabitants therof, and finnally make us find the redress and satisfactione which we have sought so long in vain, wherewith we remain your lordships most obliged friends, shirrif baillies of the city of Campvere. Campveer, 2 July 1707.

2 March 1708.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilsone; Stirling, John Æreskin; Glasgow, Robert Rodger; Linlithgow, James Buncle; Hadington, Robert Gray; Dunbarton, Sir James Smollet; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Dundee, Aberdeen, Air, Kirkaldie, Dumfries, and Craill, (*blank*).

Preses.

1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

2. The committe, considering her Majesties letter with the double of a letter sent by the toun of Campveer to her anent the staple, and transmitted by her Majestie to the royall burrows, they made the following answers thereto and appointed the same to be recorded, of which the tenors follow :—May it please your Majestie. Your Majesties letter of the 9th January last came to us by the hands of the lord provest of Edinburgh, who having called the commissioners appointed for the affaires of the staple port by the last generall conventione, we have in obedience to your Majesties commands made strict enquiry anent the aledged infractions of the staple contract complained off, and we find that the reasons why our merchants went to Rotterdam and other ports and did not arrive at Campveer were because they had not sufficient convoyes for acquiring of their trade, for albeit by the staple contract the toun of Campveer be oblidged to send four well furnished ships of warr yearly, not mounted under thirty guns a piece, whereof two in April and two in October, during the warr, as a convoy to our ships, yet sometimes they neglected to send any, and at other times but one, and that not sufficiently manned or of competent force to guard our ships, and particularly in the year 1704 when our ships sailed with the convoy then sent two of the most valuable fell into the hands of their enemies which our merchants imputed to the insufficiency of the convoy. Wee, by our letter in July 1706, to the toun of Campveer, did complain of our wanting sufficient convoyes whereunto we had neither return nor redress. They did, indeed, in July last acquaint ws that many of our ships had under ane English and Dutch convoy gone to Rotterdam whill the convoy they sent returned with three or four small veshells to Campveer. We upon recipt of that letter made enquiry in the matter and caused our agent prosecut the delinquents who gave in for their defence that there was but one ship sent in place of two due by the staple contract and even that ship sent was neither well manned nor of a competent force. Wee doe, therefor, humbly lay befor your Majestie this affair as it truly stands, and since the toun of Campveer proposes that the staple contract be inviolablie keept it is our humble address that your Majestie would be pleased to recomend to them that they on the other hand take care that sufficient and well provyded convoyes be sent in due seasone for guarding and convoying our ships. We shall aluayes on our part, with the utmost zeall

EDINBURGH. 2 March 1708. Answer to her Majesties letter.

EDINBURGH. 2 March 1708.

Answer to her Majesties letter.

and care, maintain and preserve the publick faith, and from time to time give the necessary directions for punishing delinquents, and we return your Majestie our most humble and hearty thanks for the great care and concerne your Majestie is pleased to express touards your royall burrows; and as your royall pleasure shall alwayes direct ws in the due observance of what belongs to the staple contract so we are firmly resolved from a deep sense of our many obligations to testifie upon all occasiouns our dutyfull zeal and affectione to your sacred persone and government, which God long preserve and maintain. This, at desire and in presence of the committe of the royall burrows, signed by, [etc.] Edinburgh, 2d March 1708.

Answer to the toun of Campveers letter.

3. Right honourable. Wee have had one or tuo of your letters complaining of the contraventions of the staple contract. We would have returned the ansuers sooner but having gevin our necessary orders to our agent to prosecut the delinquents we delayed till we should be in a capacity to give you some satisfying return. We writ to yow in July 1706 complaining of the want of sufficient convoyes, which we must say is not yet redrest and when our agent pursued those mentioned in your last letter for goeing under English and Dutch convoyes to Rotterdam, they gave in their defence that the Zeland convoy then in the Firth was not of sufficient force to protect them. Wee have received a letter from her Majestie, our Sovereigne, by which wee understand yow have laid your complaints befor her and could have wished that befor you had complained to her Majestie yow would have redrest our former grievances offered to yourselves for not sending sufficient convoyes to guard our trade. By the staple contract we should have tuo sent twice a year and yet these severall years by past yow have sent only one, and that of very small force. Wee take occasione at the same time to acquaint you that the observing of the staple contract depends in a great measure upon your sending good and sufficient convoyes for guarding and protecting our ships, which being done we shall take care for performing all on our part. As to the report of the commissioners that were sent to Campveer in the year 1702, whereof you crave the royall burrows approbatione, we find the said report hes not yet been considered by them but shall represent the same to the generall conventione in July next, we being only a committe autherized for the

matters remitted to ws by the conventione. Right honorable, [etc.] Edinburgh, 2 March 1708. EDINBURGH. 2 March 1708.

4. The committe, considering that by the coppy of ane appeal given in to the lords of sessione by Sir Andrew Kennedy he insinuats that the communicating the benefite of the staple to strangers being discovered by the burrows they did approve of the same without challenge and past noe censure upon it, they appoint a coppy of the appeal to be laid befor the next generall conventione. Sir Andrew Kennedies appeal.

29 April 1708.

Edinburgh, William Neilsone; Stirling, John Æerskin; Linlithgow, Adam Buncle; Glasgow, Robert Rodger; Air, (*blank*); Hadingtoun, Robert Gray; Dumfreis, William Copland; Dunbarton, Sir James Smollet; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Queensferry, James Dalgleish. Sederunt.

1. Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The committe, considering that severall affaires relating to trade and the staple port and other overtures of importance to the royall burrows, particularly in relatione to their being represented in the ensueing parliament, must be with all conveniency discust, do therefor recomend to Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh, to call a generall meeting of the burrows at Edinburgh the fourteen day of May next to deliberat upon the forsaid affaires, and ordains the commissioners of Edinburgh, Stirling, Dumfreis and Dunbarton, to draw up the missive for that end. Generall meeting to be held.

3. The committe, considering that the toun and states of Campveer having complained to her Majestie of several infractions of the staple contract on the part of the royall burrows, and her Majestie by her gracious letter had acquainted the burrows therewith, the committe having maturly considered the said affair did make a dutyfull return to her Majesties said letter and also writ to the magistrats of Campveer upon the said subject, notwithstanding wherof noe convoy was sent this last spring in the terms of the staple contract, therfor the committe ordains the wholl members of the next annual conventione to come up fully instructed in relatione to the said affair. Infractions of staple contract.

4. The committe ordains Sir Robert Forbes to cause cite the haill unfree traders to appear befor them upon the first Thursday of June next. Unfree traders.

EDINBURGH. 14 May 1708.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, William Neilson and John Mirrie; Perth, William Austin; **Dundie, George Yeaman**; **Aberdeen, Robert Stewart**; Stirling, John Erskin; **Linlithgow, James Buncle**; **St. Andrews, Alexander** Watsone; Glasgow, Robert **Rodger**; **Hadingtoun, Robert Gray**; **Anstruther Easter**, James Graham; Inverness, **Mr Alexander Clark**; **Jedburgh, John Smith**; Kirkudbright, David **Lidderdale**; **Pitenueem, William Borthuick**; **Selkirk**, Andrew Wauch; Dumbarton, **Sir James Smollet**; **Dunbar, James Fas**; Peebles, Robert Forrest; **Lauder, John Moffet**; **Queensferry, James Dalgleish**; [forty-five burghs *blank*.]

14 May 1708.

Preses.

1. **Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh**, elected preses.

Commissions approved.

2. **Approved of the whole commissions produced.**

Overtures in relation to trade and other concerns of the burghs.

3. **The same day, was presented to the conventione** severall overtures **in relatione to trade and other concerns of the** royall burrows, which being **read was ordained to be recorded, whereof the tennor** followes:—Memoriall **for the committe of the royall burrows. (1°) That** the condition of the **staple port be taken under consideratione, and that** some effectuall method **be taken for keeping the same at Campveer** conforme to the staple contract, and for that effect that due provisione be made for seasonable convoyes to secure the ships that trade to Holland, and if this cannot be made effectuall to applye to her Majestie that the royall burrows may be made free of the said contract and staple port and from payment of any dues to the conservator upon that account. (2°) Inrespect by ane express article of the late treaty of union ther is a particular reservatione of the haill rights and priviledges of the royall burrows, and that notwithstanding thereof the unfree traders do enjoy a great part of the benefite of trade and do not pay any suteable proportion of the taxt roll effeirand to their trade, but the royall burrows are still burdened therewith, it is most necessar to consider what can be effectually done for obligeing of the said unfree traders to bear ane just and equall proportione, whither by the royall burrows their making applicatione and presenting this grievance to the parliament of Great Britain or any other method shall be thought most fitt for attaining the forsaid end. (3°) In regard of the severall good

EDINBURGH. 14 May 1708.

Overtures in relation to trade and other concerns of the burghs.

laws and acts of parliament made for encouraging of fishing in this part of Great Britain, that considerable drawbacks are alloued to the exporters of herring, salmond, and whit fish, and now that the time of fishing approaches and seeing the said trade of fishing is more considerable then all the other branches of trade which the royall burrows do enjoy, it deserves the committes serious consideratione to fall upon such wayes and meanes that may best advance and promove the forsaid manufactory. (4°) Seeing by the treaty of Union there is now access for ane open and free trade to the West Indies and to all other forreigne places wher the English have access to trade, wherby the manufactories of linnen and woolen may be exported and considerable returns made to the advantage of this natione in generall and of the royall burrows in particular, the committe will be pleased to consider what may be the best and most effectuall method for promoving the saids manufactories in the severall burghs royall and exporting thereof furth of the kingdome, and the convention appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling, Lithgow, Glasgow, Haddington, Selkirk, and Dunbarton, as a committe to consider the saids overtures and what ells should be remitted to them by the conventione.

Report by committee on overtures.

4. The committe to whom the consideratione of the overtures given in to the conventione was remitted reported that they having mett and considered the first paragraph of the saids overtures concerning the staple port, they were of oppinion the consideration thereof should be delayed till the next annual conventione, in respect the committe appointed by the last annual convention for the staple port had not yet received any ansuer to the letter writen by them to her Majestie and toun of Campveer thereanent; and having likeuise considered the second paragraph of the said memoriall they fand the committe appointed by the last generall convention for the unfree trade had already appointed the unfree traders to be cited befor them upon the first Thursday of June next and therefor delayed the further consideratione thereof till the said committe make report of their proceedur thereanent to the next annuall conventione; and having also considered the third paragraph of the said overtures it was their opinion the convention should recomend to the said committe for trade appointed by the last generall convention to draw up ane address to be presented to her Majestie in relatione to the said affair; and having likeuise

EDINBURGH. 14 May 1708.

Report by committee on overtures.

considered the last paragraph of the saids overtures they were of oppinione the conventione should remitt the further consideratione thereof to the said committe appointed by the last generall conventione for trade that they may prepare the same against the meeting of the next annual conventione. Which report of the said committe being heard and considered by the conventione, they approved thereof and recomended to the said committe to draw up the said address to be presented to her Majestie in relatione to the said affair.

Cess, taxt roll.

5. The conventione takeing to their consideratione that by ane act of the British parliament, intituled Ane act for granting ane aid to her Majestie to be raised by a land tax in Great Britain for the service of the year j^{m} vij^{c} and eight, the particular proportione of cess payable by the severall royall burrows is not duly adjusted conforme to their present taxt roll, and that by the said act it is particularly provyded that the proportione of the said burrows in Scotland be rated and payed as their taxt roll now is or shall be settled by themselves, therefor the conventione recomends to the burghs of Edinburgh and Aberdeen to draw out a list of the taxt roll as it was last proportioned by the royal burrows, with the particular sum payable by each burgh, and appoints their agent to send inclosed in the next generall missive the particular quota payable by the respective burghs conforme to the said taxt roll, and recomends to the burghs of Edinburgh and Dumbarton, or any one of them, to delyver ane authentick double thereof to the receiver of her Majesties cess of North Britain to be the rule by which he is to collect the same in all tyme coming during the continuance of the said taxt roll, and this to be delyvered under forme of instrument.

Qualifications of representatives in parliament.

6. Severall members having craved advyce how to proceed in the electione of fitt persons to represent them in the ensueing parliament of Great Brittain, particularly anent the qualifications of persons to represent them, as being a matter of great import and concern to the burrows, both in itself and in the preparative as to ensueing parliaments, and the convention having taken this matter into their consideratione, they befor ansuer remitted the consideratione thereof to the committe appointed to consider the overtures, and recomends to the said committe to revise their records, the laws and acts of parliament and acts of conventione in rela-

tione to the qualifications of persons to represent the burrows in parliaments or generall conventions of estates. EDINBURGH. 14 May 1708.

7. The committe having reported to the conventione that they had purused their records and acts of conventione of burrows relating to the qualifications of persons to represent them in parliaments, as also severall laws and acts of parliament relative to this matter, and they found that by the ancient constitutione and many acts of conventione for severall ages, and by severall acts of parliament in severall reigns of our sovereigns, that persons comissionat by burghs to represent them in parliament or conventione of estates behoved to be trading merchants, residenters, and who bore charges within burgh, and who were gainers or losers in their concerns, and that at severall times persons not so qualified have been rejected and that these acts when not observed have been revived by subsequent acts, and the convention having considered the report of the committe, with the acts of parliament and acts of conventione of burrows as they stand recorded in their books, to which the report did relate, they did remitt this matter to the said committe to be revised and reported to them against the morrow at ten oclock at which time they are to have the same under consideratione. Report as to qualifications of representatives in parliament.

15 May 1708.

8. The committe did resum their former report in relation to the qualifications of persons to represent the burrows in parliament, with this additione that when the burrows in Scotland were a third estate of the natione and had so full a representation of above sixty members, it was not aluayes easie to find so many persons qualified conforme to the constitutione of burrows and the forsaid acts to represent them in the parliament of Scotland, and therefor tho frequently revived were not constantly and duly observed, yet seeing now by the union of the tuo kingdomes only fiften persons are to represent the wholl burrows in Scotland it will be easier to find fifteen trading merchants to represent them in the ensuing parliaments of Great Britain, and considering the great poverty of the burghs occasioned through the great decay of trade and the necessity to have persons to represent them who will be concerned in the advancement and promotting of trade and the interests of burghs arising therefrom, Act as to qualifications of representatives in parliament.

EDINBURGH. 15 May 1708.

Act as to qualifications of representatives in parliament.

without which they will not be able to bear their proportione of cess and other burdens within burgh, they are of oppinione that it should be recommended from the severall burghs as also from this conventione to the wholl burghs of North Britain to make choise of knowing skilfull trading merchants, burgesses of any burgh in Scotland, to represent them in all the subsequent parliaments of Great Britain, as being the fittest persons conforme to the qualifications forsaid required by the said acts and most concerned in the interest of the burrows and most sutable to the erectione and constitutione therof. The conventione having heard the forsaid report, and haveing taken the same with the severall acts of parliament and acts of convention of burrows as they stand recorded in their books, in relation to the qualifications of persons to represent them in parliaments, as also considering the great poverty of the burrows which hes ensued through the decay of trade and not observing of these acts and qualifications of commissioners to represent them, as likeuise considering the smalness of the number who are now to represent the burrows in Scotland in the parliament of Great Britain, and that there will nothing more contribute to the retriving of the decayed circumstances and conditions of the burghs and to the advancement and promoveing of trade in the United Kingdome and the interest and advantage of the burghs then to have knowing trading merchants to represent them in the ensueing parliaments, therefor they doe hereby seriously recommend to all the burghs of Scotland as they are cantoned and in districts to make choise of honnest knowing trading merchants, burgesses, or magistrats and counsellers of any burgh in Scotland, to represent them in the ensueing parliament of Great Britain, as being a necessary qualificatione, conforme to the ancient erectione and constitutione of burghs, enjoyned and required by severall laws and acts of parliament, and by many acts and conventions of burrows, such persons being most concerned in the promoting of trade and the true interest of burrows, and which will be the true mean and way to revive and restore the decayed circumstances and conditions of the burghs, and whereby they will be enabled to bear their proportione of the cess and publick burdens as well as the other burdens and charges within burgh.

Address to her Majestie as to invasion.

9. The conventione, considering that it is their duty to address her Majestie upon the late happy disapoyntment of the designed invasione of

a Popish Pretender, supported by a forreigne pouer, they recomended to the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Haddington, Selkirk and Dumbarton, whereof three a quorum, Edinburgh being aluayes one, to draw up the said address to be presented to the conventione on Monday next at nine o'clock. EDINBURGH. 15 May 1708. Address to her Majestie as to invasion.

17 May 1708.

10. The committe appointed by the conventione the fiften instant to draw up ane address to be presented to her Majestie gave in the said address, which was read and approven by the convention and ordained to be recorded and subscribed by their preses and transmitted to her Majestie, wherof the tennor followes:—To the Queens Most Excellent Majestie. We your Majesties most loyall and dutyfull subjects, the representatives of the royall burrows in the present conventione, do most humbly represent that this being the first time we could meet together since the last happy deliverance of this part of your Majesties kingdome of Great Britain from the threatned invasione, we thought ourselves bound in all duty to concurr with your Majesties other faithfull subjects in expressing our uttmost abhorrance and detestatione of that wicked designe of the French King to invade your dominions. We do most heartily congratulat the success of your Majesties navy and armes, so speedily and seasonably provyded to defeat that horrid interprise. We do likeuise, in all humble duty, give your Majestie full assurance that we shall never be wanting to maintain and defend your Majesties royall persone and successione in the protestant line against all attempts of the Pretender and his adherents; and that the divine protectione may be aluayes touards your sacred persone and government, that your counsells and armes may be ever attended with success, and that, by the blessing of God, your life and reign may be long and prosperous, is and shall be the constant prayer of, may it please your Majestie, [etc.] Address to her Majestie approved of.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 6 July 1708.

Edinburgh, William Neilson and John Mirrie; Perth, James Crie; Dundie, George Yeaman; Aberdeen, James Catanach; Stirling, John Ærskine; Linlithgow, James Buncle; St Androws, Alexander Watsone; Glasgow, Robert Rodger; Sederunt.

Edinburgh. 6 July 1708. Sederunt.

Hadingtoun, Robert Gray ; Dysert, John Mortimer ; Kirkaldie, James Osuald ; **Montrose, Robert Turnbull ; Coupar, Andrew Rutherfoord ;** Anstruther Easter, George Scott ; **Dumfreis, John Kennan ; Inverness,** Alexander Duff ; Innerkeithing, John Lundin ; **Kinghorn, Robert Bruce ;** Brichen, Alexander Young ; **Irving, Mr William Cunningham ; Jedburgh, John Smith ;** Kirkudbright, David Lidderdale ; **Wigtoun, Simon Gulline ; Pittenweem,** William Bell ; Dumfermling, John Veitch ; **Anstruther Wester, George Smith ;** Selkirk, Andrew Wauch ; **Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet ; Renfrew, Mr John** Cochran ; Dunbar, William **Fea ; Lanerk, William Inglis ; Aberbrothock, John** Hutchesone ; Elgin, Thomas **Calder ; Peebles, Robert Forrester ; Crail, Mr John** Wood ; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie ; **Whitherne, John M'Gouane ;** Forfar, Charles Dicksone ; **Rutherglen, John Scott ; Northberwick, James Miller ;** Lauder, William Smith ; **Kilrenny, James Peacock ; Annan, Mr William** Johnstone ; Lochmaben, Mr **John Hendersone ; Dinguell, Sir James Mackenzie ;** Queensferry, James Dalgleish ; **Fortrose, William Tolme ; Weik, James Murray ;** Inverbervie, Alexander **Arbuthnot ; (seventeen burghs *blank*.)**

6 July 1708.

Preses.

1. **Sir Samuell M'Clellan, lord provost of Edinburgh,** elected preses.

Members qualified.

Immediatly thereafter the wholl members of conventione with their **clerks and deput tooke and subscribed the abjuratione ;** as alsoe such other of the members as had not formerly taken the **oath of alegiance** did take the same and subscribe it with the **assurance.**

Revising commissions.

2. **Appointed a committee to revise the commissions.**

7 July 1708.

Commissions approven.

3. **Approved of the whole commissions except that of Tain the consideration** of which was again remitted to committee.

Missive remitted.

4. **Remitted the general missive to the consideration of the committee appointed** to revise the commissions.

Heads of missive continued.

5. **Having received report of the committee, the convention appointed certain** articles to be heads of next general missive.

Erecting manufactories.

6. The conventione considering that notwithstanding by the sixth article of the missive each burgh is appointed to erect and set up manufactories within their several bounds for imploying idle and poor people and thereby disburden these burrows of maintaining such persones, yet ther

hes been hitherto noe effectuall executione of that act, to the great prejudice and apparent ruine of the state of burrows if not timeously remeeded, therefore they doe not only appoint and ordaine the said sixth article to continue to be ane head of the missive but also they doe of new statute that each burgh doe report their dilligence to the next generall conventione of their puting the forsaid act to due executione, with certificatione that all or such of the saids burrows as shall failyie in executing the said act and giving in report of their dilligence to the said next annuall conventione shall be obliged to pay in to the agent of the royall burrows the sum of ane hundred pounds, Scots money, without delay or defalcatione, and which sums so to be incurred of penalty are appointed to be applyed for the use of the royall burrows who shall give obedience by setting up manufactories and imploying their poor and idle inhabitants.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1708.

Erecting manufactories.

7. It being represented by some of the members that in severall burghs wherein there are mortifications that the same are missaplyed and gevin to severall persons and uses contrair to the foundations, wherby not only such pious dotations are discouraged but also many people are incouraged in ane idle and lazie triffling their youth, and become depauperat and burdings to the places of their residence, having no vther view but by their relations or interest with the managers of such mortifications to be provyded in ane livelyhood, therefore the conventione expressly inhibite and discharge all such misapplications in time coming, and do hereby declare that when any of the burrows shall be found guilty of or accessory unto any such mismanagements they shall be censured and punished by the conventione according to their demerit.

Against misapplicatione of mortifications.

8. The conventione considering that nothing does more contribute to the decay of the royall burrows then the idleness of their inhabitants, and that the same is much incouraged by the supine negligence of such magistrats as either allow or connive at the harbour and resett of idle and vagrant persons, who when they become bankrupt and destitute of livelyhood doe creep into royall burrows and there lurk and must certainly be subsisted either by sorning or thieving or some other such indirect methods, therefore the conventione does discharge any of their burrows to suffer any idle or vagrant persons to remaine within there burghs, and to stop and hinder any such people to come and reside amongst them in time coming, and for that effect they shall conveen befor them all such

Against idle and vagrant persons, etc.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1708.

Against idle and vagrant persons, etc.

idle or vagrant persons and take ane account of the way of their living and if they cannot give satisfying accounts of themselves that they can live without being a burden to the place then they are instantly to be removed therefrae; and each burgh is expressly appointed to report their dilligence in this matter to the next generall conventione, under the same penalties and certifications as are contained in the act made anent erecting of manufactories. It is aluise hereby declared that wher mortifications are express in their destinations and applications the same are to be punctually observed according to the letter thereof; as also that in such burghs wherein are objects of charity, either consisting of persons old and superannuat, who have been antient burgesses and inhabitants, or decripped sickly persons who are not able to work, that such are excepted and nouayes comprehended in this act.

Stirling, sale of lands.

9. The committee appointed by the 11th act of the general convention in July 1705 reported that they had considered the sale of "the lands of Bridgehaugh and the lands upon the east side of the shoar calsay belonging to the burgh of Stirling," and found that the same had been profitably sold and the price applied towards payment of the town's debt. The convention approved and appointed the disposition to be recorded in the burgh records.

Act for composing differences in burghs.

10. The burghs of Aberdeen, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Inverness, Peebles and Kilrenny produced extracts of the "act for composing of differences within burgh, etc., and the conventione did yet allow such burghs as have not yet given in extracts thereof to transmitt the same to their clerks betuixt and the first of November next."

Bruntisland.

11. The convention directed that the report by the committee appointed to see the sum given to the burgh of Burntisland bestowed for repairing their harbour should be a head of next general missive.

Tain.

12. Approved of report by the committee appointed to see the sum of 500 merks given to the burgh of Tain for building their tolbooth rightly applied.

9 July 1708.

Culross.

13. Anent the petitione from the burgh of Culross, shewing that the said burgh being now destitute of magistrats and thereby rendered incapable to send any member to the honorable conventione, in and through the late magistrats their not takeing and subscribing the oath of objuratione as by law appointed, whereby the commone good of the said burgh and all its affairs are like to suffer and perish, therefor craving the con-

ventione would fall upon such wayes and means as they should think fitt for restoring the said toun againe to a settled magistracy, and in the meantime to autherize some of their number to repair to the said toun, at whose sight some fitt persons may be appointed by the community to uplift the commone good and to applye the same for payment of the publick and other debts, as the petitione bears. Which being considered be the conventione, they declare they will address her Majestie for a popular electione in ordor to obtaine a new magistracy for the said burgh, and in the meantyme ordained the burghs of Stirling, Linlithgow, Dumfermling, Innerkeithing and Queensferry, or any three of them, to repair to the said burgh of Culross upon the tenth of August next, that at their sight the community may chuse tuo or three fitt persons to uplift the commone good and cess of the said burgh, the persons sua chosen finding cautione for their intromissione and right applicatione thereof and qualifying conforme to law and that the saids commissioners order the stent to be laid on as formerly.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1708. Culross.

14. The committee appointed in 1706 to visit the tenement in Queensferry sold to William Patersone and to enquire how the price was bestowed, reported that the tenement was in a ruinous condition, that the burgh was not in a capacity to repair it, and that Patersone was the highest offerer, having offered 600 merks Scots which "was given in dote for augmenting the ministers stipend of the burgh."

Queensferry.

15. The conventione approved ane address to be sent to her Majestie upon occasione of the great victory obtained against the French King in Flanders, as also ane address to his royall highness Prince George of Denmark, with ane letter to the Earle of Godolphine, lord high treasurer of Great Brittain, of which addresses and letter the tennor folloues :—May it please your Majestie. Wee your royall burrows in conventione assembled esteem ourselves in duty bound to lay hold of this occasione to evidence to the world the great sense we haue of the many blessings we enjoy under your Majesties glorious reign, and likeuise to express our humble thankfulness for your Majesties constant care and concern for us and all our rights and priviledges. At the sametime we doe with hearts full of joy begg leave to congratulat your Majestie upon the late glorious success of your armes and those of your allaies, against that commone enemie of Europ, obtained under the conduct of your Majesties renouned

Addresses approved.

Address to her Majestie.

EDINBURGH. 9 July 1708.

Address to her Majestie.

generall the Duke of Marleborough, and we hope by your Majesties wise and steedy conduct that French monarch shall at last be rendered incapable any more to disturb the peace of Europe. Wee doe againe renew our humble duty and assurance to stand by your Majestie with our lives and fortounes against all your enemies both at home and abroad, and to maintain and defend the succession of the croun in the protestant line as by law established, heartily praying your Majestie a long and glorious reign, that your forces may still proue victorious over all your enemies and that your royall hands may still hold the ballance of Europe. May it please your Majestie, [etc.]

Letter to Prince George of Denmark.

Followes the Letter to Prince George:—May it please your Royall Highness. Wee having had occasione at our annual meeting to consider the trade of this part of the natione, the protectione wherof doth so much tend both for increasing of her Majesties customes and the welfare of the subjects, we humbly begg leave to represent to your royall highness that many of our ships haue been taken of late by French privateers who doe very much abound upon our coasts, and any litle trade we haue is thereby rendered so precarious and uncertain that we must earnestly beseech that for the futur the convoyes and cruzers who are to guard our coasts may be ordered to call at the seuerall herbours and ports from the firth of Forth to the Orkneys on the east part, and from the Isle of Man to the mouth of Clyde on the west part, and take such ships as may be therein under their safe conduct and convoy. We also humbly represent to your royall highness that Captain Campbell, commander of her Majesties ship the Dumbartone, having been taken of late by the French upon the western coast, our trade hath suffered extreamly since that time for want of ships of force there, which we are confident your royall highness will cause take care of for the future. Wee intreat your royall highness in your great wisdome would be pleased to consider that seeing a great part of our trade is only from one herbour here to another, that therefor some ships of a small force would be of great use to protect us and to delyver us from the dangers to quhich our ships are obnoxious from small privateers which lurk in the creeks of the coast, and likeuise that the ships appointed for that statione may be ordered to convoy our ships bound eastuard to the mouth of the Sound in the same manner our friggots

were formerly in use to doe. These things we in all humility lay befor your royall highness, being confidently assured of your great care and concerne for the trade of this part of the natione and the protectione thereof, and praying for all health and happiness to your royall highness. May it please your royall Highness [etc.] Edinburgh, 10 July 1708. EDINBURGH. 9 July 1708. Letter to Prince George of Denmark.

Folloues the letter to the Lord Godolphin:—My Lord. We lay hold on this occasione to give your lordship our humble thanks for the books relating to her Majesties customes transmitted to us by your lordships order, and likeuise to assure your lordship that we shall still use our endeavours to give all due encouragement to these are or shall be imployed in her Majesties revenues. We have addressed his royall highness the Prince George of Denmark, for securing our costs from the insults of French privateers which doe constantly infest us, and are very prejudiciall to our trade, wherein we doe earnestly intreat your lordships concurrance. The many demonstrations we haue had of your favour and the great confidence we repose in your lordship affoords this new trouble that your lordship would be pleased to doe us the honour to present our humble address to her Majestie with our letter to his Royall Highness which is herewith transmitted, and we doe assure your lordship that upon all occasions we will give proof how much we are in all sincerity, may it please your lordship, [etc.] Edinburgh, 10 July 1708. Letter to the Lord Godolphin.

12 July 1708.

16. On petition from the burgh of Jedburgh, the convention authorised the agent to disburse what shall be found necessary for defending the action against the burgh referred to in an act of the particular convention, dated 26th November last. Jedburgh.

17. Allowed the burgh of Elgin to feu or set in tack their muir lying south and south-west from the moss of Mostowie. Elgin.

18. On the recommendation of the visitors appointed to visit Kirkcudbright, the convention ratified a tack to David Curror, merchant, burgess of that burgh, of the fishing and fish yard belonging to that burgh (which "for severall years bypast had only payed tuenty merkes yearly") for the space of twenty-one years at a yearly rent of £40 Scots. Kirkcudbright, fishing.

EDINBURGH. 18 July 1708.

18 July 1708.

Fraser and Clark.

19. Appointed the agent to pay to Alexander Clerk and John Frazer the sum of £600 Scots, and John Vere Kennedy to pay them the remaining £500 Scots of the sum allowed to them by an act of the committee on 26th December last.

Earl of Panmuir and toun of Brichen.

20. The commissioners for the burghs of Stirling and Dumbarton, appointed by the committe to interpose with the Earle of Panmuir in order to accomodat the difference betuixt his lordship and the toun of Brichen, reported that the earle being by contract obliged to chose a baillie out of a leet to be made up by the toun at Michaelmass yearly, and the persone last chosen being rendered uncapable to exerce through his not qualifying himself according to law, and that no new leet being given the earle did put in a baillie of his oun chosing, but at the same tyme the Lord Grange having right from the earle was willing to give it under his hand that the puting in the present baillie should be no infringement of the touns priuiledges and so was willing to keep up friendship with the toun of Brichen and observe the contract strictly in all time coming; wherupon the conventione appointed the commissioners of Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling and Montrose, to wait upon the earle and thank his lordship in the conventions name for his condescendance in this affair and to intreat his lordships fauour to the said burgh in time coming.

Act anent the burgh of Tain.

21. Appointed a committee to make exact inquiry into the ancient constitution, use and wont of the election of the magistrates and town council of the burgh of Tain, and if the same has been altered, with full power "to make a new sett and constitution for the said burgh conforme to its ancient constitutione, use and wont . . . . . and to take all such other methods as may creat a good understanding in the said burgh, to the effect they may live in emity and peace and within the due bounds and limits that is suitable to all the members of such incorporations."

Justices of the peace.

22. The commissioners from the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, and Dumbarton, who were appointed by the committe to consult her Majesties advocat anent the true extent and bounds of the justices of peace, their jurisdictione, inregard of seuerall incroachments made be them upon the royall burrows, and in case any new power hath been granted to the saids justices contrair to the rights of the burrows to see

what was the readiest way to get redress, reported that they having informed the lord advocat thereof his lordship ansuered that he was desired by the Earle of Sunderland to enquire into the very same affair now depending betuixt the toun of Edinburgh and the justices of peace of the shire of Midlouthian and to transmitt to her Majestie his opinione thereanent, which he was to doe, and desired the other burrows to acquaint him with any incroachment made upon them by the saids justices of peace that he might acquaint the Queen therewith ; whereupon the conventione appointed Sir Robert Forbes, their agent, furthwith to transmitt to the haill burrows the lord advocats opinione theiranent. EDINBURGH. 13 July 1708. Justices of the peace.

23. The committe appointed to consult the lord advocat anent the staple contract reported that it was his lordships oppinione that the staple contract could not be broken up on pretence of violations on either side, inregard of a particular clause in the contract allouing only reparatione against the transgressors thereof, but that the conventione might address her Majestie and represent the many infractions of the staple made by the toun of Campvere and with all to intreat the Queen would be pleased to signifie to the said toun that unless they obserued the contract punctually in time coming she would interpose her royall authoritie in order to the freeing the burrows therefrom, whereupon the conventione appointed the burghs of Dundie, Stirling and Dumbarton, to bring in to the conventione the draught of the said address and of the ansuere to the toun of Campvere and secretary Boyll. Thereafter the conventione appointed this report to be reconsidered inrespect it seems to have proceeded upon wrong informatione. Staple contract.

24. Appointed a committee to meet at eight o'clock to-morrow morning to consider the agent's accounts and report. Agents accompts.

25. The same day, it being desired by those burghs who had right to keep the weights and measures that they might be alloued to retaine all those sent from England, the conventione by advice from Sir James Stewart, her Majesties advocat, found the saids burghs could only retain each of them one or tuo setts, and that the rest ought to be distribute amongst the remnant burghs who want as farr as they will goe, and this being done other new ones must be made by the forsaids burghs who haue right to keep them according to the standart of those they haue already, Weights and measures.

EDINBURGH. 13 July 1708.

to be marked with the dean of gilds seall of the respective burrows, keepers therof, and therafter to be distribute amongst those who want.

15 July 1708.

Staple port, draught of address, and letters approven.

26. The committe appointed to bring in ane draught of ane address to her Majestie anent the staple, with ane ansuer to the letters from the toun of Campvere and Mr Secretary Boyll thereanent, reported the same to the conventione, which being read was votted and approven, the tennor whereof followes :—

Address to her Majestie.

May it please your Majestie. We your royall burrows, assembled in this present generall conventione, having taken your Majesties gracious letter concerning the observance of the staple contract with the toun of Campvere under our serious consideratione, and thereby understanding that it is your Majesties inclinatione that we should continue the samen, we doe in all humble duty complye with your royall pleasure and doe resolve to pass by all the former breaches the toun of Campvere has made on their part, upon expectatione that in time coming they will send seasonable and suitable convoys to our ships and performe the other conditions of that contract, for quhich end wee humbly desire that your Majestie would be graciously pleased to recomend it seriously to the states of Zeland and toun of Campvere that they give us no farther ground of complaint nor discouragement to the merchants and masters of ships who shall for hereafter resort to the Netherlands, that so ane good correspondence may be cultivated betuixt them and us and that your Majestie may receive no further trouble by complaints upon the account of new breaches and failyures by either parties concerned. We doe earnestly pray that the Almighty God may pouer forth his best blessings upon your royall persone and government, as being the greatest earthly hapyness that is proposed by, may it please your Majestie, [etc.]

Letter to the toun of Campvere.

Folloues the ansuer to the toun of Campveres letter :—Right Honourable. In answer to your letter of the 18 of May and of the memoriall you transmitted to us, we haue after full consideratione of the samen resolued to pass by all the grounds of complaint formerly given us by ther not sending seasonable and suteable convoys and other breaches of the staple contract, and are willing that any mistakes which have fallen out

upon either side be buried in oblivione, and firmly to obserue the staple contract for hereafter, upon the confident expectatione that ye will undertake and assure us that ye will performe what ye are bound to doe upon your part in the precise terms of the contract, and if any failyure should happen, wherby our merchants and trading people may be disappointed and discouraged, ye will in justice agree that we can be no longer bound, for it is very obvious that it were the greatest hardship to oblige our merchants to keep the staple when they want the protectione of your convoys to cary them thither. Meantime we haue renewed and approven all former acts for observing of the staple and appointed that the samen be put to due executione, which is ane infalible sign of our sincerity in the matter and of our earnestness to cultivat ane good and perfect understanding betuixt your honours and us. We recomend you all to the protectione of the Almighty God, and are, with much duty and respect, right honourable, [etc.] Edinburgh, 15 July 1708.

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1708.

Letter to the toun of Campvere.

Folloues the ansuer to Mr Secretary Boylls letter:—Right Honourable. In ansuer to yours of the 24th of June anent the memoriall presented to the Queen in relatione to the staple contract betuixt the toun of Campvere and us, wherein her Majestie hes also signified to us her royall pleasure, we have hereby transmitted our return which we desire your honour may be pleased to present to her Majestie as to the complaints made of our breaches of the staple. We had more then equall reasone to be the first reclaimers, yet considering her Majesties inclinations to remove all former mistakes we doe not insist upon them but are willing to observe the staple contract for hereafter. Meantime we earnestly desire you will be pleased to interpose with the states of Zeland and toun of Campvere to performe their parts by sending seasonable convoyes to our merchants and fulfilling the other obligements of the contract, and by so doing we are confident her Majestie shall receive no further complaints, and we shall be the better enabled to prosecut such as shall transgress the laws of the staple. We hope you'll pardon this trouble and believe that the royall burrows will upon all occasions approve themselves to be, right honourable, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* SA. M'CLELLAN. Edinburgh, 15 July 1708.

Letter to Mr Secretary Boyle.

Postscript. We haue thought it duty for your better informatione to

Edinburgh, 15 July 1708.

send yow just coppies both of our address to her Majestie and of our letter to the toun of Campvere.

Act appointing weights and measures to be destribut.

27. The conventione, anent the representation made to them by the burghs of Stirling, Linlithgow and Lanerk, who have right to the keeping of the standards of weights, measures, &c., find that each of the saids burghs have in their custody the number of ninten of the saids standards, which were transmitted to them by the lord provest of Edinburgh by warrand of her Majesties privy counsell, and that it will not be necessar for the said burghs to retaine all the saids standards, but that a great part thereof may be instantly delyvered up to such of the royal burrows as shall be hereafter appointed, therefor, in the first place, the conventione declare that the delyvery up of the saids standards by their warrand shall be noe infringment of the rights and priviledges of the saids three burrows anent their keeping of the saids standards conforme to their antient rights and priviledges thereof, according as they and their predicessors were in use to exercise the samen. Item, the conventione appoint and ordaine that the number of seventen of each of the saids severall standards be furthwith delyvered up by the said priviledged burghs to such of the burghs royall as the lord provest of Edinburgh shall nominat for receiving of the same. Item, the conventione appoint and ordaine the said three priviledged burrows to prepare and furnish exact setts of the saids weights, measures, &c., precisly conforme to the standart, with the respective burghs marks stamped upon them, and that each burgh who shall receive of the saids standarts from the said priviledged burghs shall pay thirty pounds Scots for each of the saids setts; and in case any particular burghs shall require ther setts of mettal the conventione recomend to the said priviledged burghs to be discreit in their exactions for marking the saids setts, they paying the expence of the mettal. And in case any difference arise betuixt the said priviledged burghs and such as shall have occasione to call for setts from them, the conventione remitt to and autherize the committe anent the unfree trade, &c., which shall be appointed to sitt after disolving of this present conventione to determine the saids differences. And to the effect ther may be ane uniformity of weights and measures, &c., through the wholl burrows, the conventione appoint and ordaine the wholl royall burrows to provyde themselves with the setts above mentioned betuixt and the first day of November next to

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1708.

come, after which time the conventione discharge the wholl royall burrows to make use of any other weights, measures, &c., then those abovementioned, under the penalty of ane hundred pounds Scots. And the conventione appointed the magistrats of the wholl royall burrows to make intimatione hereof to their inhabitants. And inregard of the generous offer and concessione of the good toun of Edinburgh to provyde the wholl royall burrows with setts of the eln and yeard, and that gratis without any pryce or compositione, therefor the conventione returned their hearty thanks to the representatives of the said good toun.

Act appointing weights and measures to be destribut.

28. The convention, considering that all former breaches of the staple contract on the part of the town of Campvere have been dispensed with, and that it will be a great encouragement to merchants and skippers resorting to the staple port to be secured against prosecution for former breaches, prohibited the executing of any sentence or decreet against any person for breaking the staple prior to this date.

Breakers of the staple discharged.

29. Approved of the agent's accounts, the disbursements in which amount to £9,386, 15s. 2d. Scots, and ordained the burghs to pay their proportions of missive dues.

Accompts approved.

30. The committee appointed to consider the agent's accounts reported that they had considered his account of intromissions with the money payable by unfree traders, and the cess and missive dues paid out by him conform to six pounds Scots of the tax roll. The sum received extended to £2,358, 17s.6d., and the cess and missive dues paid, to £6838, 0s. 4d., so that the balance due by the burghs to the agent was £4,479, 2s. 10d. Scots. The convention approved of the account and recommended the committee on unfree trade to "use their utmost dilligence against the unfree traders and to fall upon such wayes and means as may be most effectuall for the speedy recovering of the money due by them in order to pay the said ballance."

Accompts for unfree trade.

31. The convention, considering "that ther may be severall affaires in relatione to the trade of this part of the natione and the interest of the royall burrows that may be propper to be laid befor the parliament of Great Brittain befor the sitting of the next annuall conventione," ordained the agent to pay to the lord provost of Edinburgh a sum not exceeding £100 sterling for defraying the charges of these affairs.

Charges on affaires anent trade.

32. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade, petitions as to the trade of the towns of Prestonpans and Stonehive.

Prestonpans, Stonehive.

33. Allowed to the burgh of Whithern £5 sterling towards rebuilding their tolbooth.

Whithern.

34. It being represented that Francis Molisone, the Earl of Panmuir's depute in Brichen, was illegally incarcerated and detained close prisoner under

Brichen, Molisone to be liberat.

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1708.

warrant by a bailie of Brichen, albeit the debt for which he was imprisoned stood suspended, the convention recommended the burgh to liberate the prisoner on his finding caution to pay the debt or return to prison.

Fortrose. 35. Appointed the agent to pay the cess and missive dues of Fortrose effeiring to twelve pence of the tax roll.

Kintoir. 36. Appointed the condition of Kintoir to be a head of next missive.

Robert Panton, factor. 37. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade, a petition by the conservator craving that Robert Panton, factor at Campveere, should be ordered to pay his conservator's dues since 1703, to renew his caution, "and to cause his wife, a Dutch woman, to renunce the Dutch jurisdictione, that he and others having effects in his hands may be secured." The convention also ordained that Panton should be asked to renew his caution and cause his wife renounce the Dutch jurisdiction before 1st November next.

Setts of each burgh to be recorded. 38. The conventione finding by experience that nothing doth creat more trouble to them then irregularities and abuses committed by particular burghs in electing their magistrats and toun counsell contrair to ther sett and antient constitutione, therefor the conventione to obviat this inconveniencie in time coming statut and appointed that each royall burgh within this kingdome send up their sett to the clerks of the burrows to be recorded in a particular book to be keeped for that very purpose, to the end any questione about their respective setts may be quickly discust upon producing the said book, and that betuixt and the next conventione, certifying such as shall faill herein they shall be fyned by the next annuall conventione in the sum of tuo hundred pounds Scots money.

Committe for unfree traders, &c. 39. The conventione considering that few of the burghs of barrony and regality have agreed for the communication of trade, and it being fitt that a committe be appointed with full power not only to agree with unfree traders that shall make offer but also to continow or highten the proportione of these who have agree das they shall see cause, therefor the convention did nominat and appoint [a committe,] giving and granting to them full pouer, warrand, and commissione to compone, transact, and agree with the saids burghs of barrony and regality, or any unfree traders, for the said communicatione of trade, both for bygones and in time coming, or ferme the same in wholl or in part as they shall see cause, and likeuise to continue or augment the proportione of those who have already agreed, the payment being aluayes made to Sir Robert Forbes, their agent, who shall be comptable to the conventione therfor, whom the conventione hereby

impouer to quarter upon such burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders as have already agreed or hereafter shall agree, and that as they are at present or shall hereafter be stented and taxed; and farder the conventione remitted to the said committe the consideratione of all affaires relating to the staple port, with pouer to them to do everything requisit and necessar theranent sicklyke and as freely in all respects as the conventione might have done themselves; and with pouer to the said committe to determine in all debates within burghs in relatione to the management of their commone good, and as to the way and manner of their elections of their magistrats and deacons of crafts and management of their revenues and anent their priviledges and incrochments thereon and other publick concerns, in the terms of the fourty second act of the generall conventione j^m^ vij^c^ and six years; and inregard it will be of great import to the trade of this natione that a good correspondance be keeped betuixt the royall burrows and the members of parliament in this part of the United Kingdome, and that everything tending to the advancing of trade be dully prepared and laid befor the parliament, therefor the conventione also impouered the said committy not only to transmitt to the parliament the overtures anent trade agreed upon in the conventione in November j^m^ vij^c^ and seven years, but also to transmit such other overtures as they from time to time shall agree to; and the conventione appointed the first meeting of the said committe to be upon the sixten of July instant, with pouer to them to adjourn themselves from time to time as they shall see cause; and the conventione seriously recomended to the said committe the proportione of the six pounds undertaken be Sir Robert Forbes upon the burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders in the first place, and in case the said six pounds be not wholly taken off by the said unfree traders the conventione recomended to the next generall conventione to do the same or they goe upon any other business; and, finnaly, the conventione impouered the said committe to address her Majestie or the parliament in relatione to the drawbacks or anything relating to trade as they shall think fitt.

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1708. Committe for unfree traders, &c.

40. The conventione appointed the burghs of Kirkaldie and Kinghorn to visit the harbour and bellhouse of the burgh of Dysert and report the conditione therof to the next generall conventione, and this to be a head of the next generall missive.

DYSERT.

Edinburgh, 15 July 1708.

Queensferry.

41. Remitted a petition by the burgh of Queensferry to the committee on unfree trade, and recommended them "to wryt to the propper office for relief of the prisoners belonging to the said burgh detcined at Dunkirk, and to consider the unfree traders who have deserted the burgh and gone to live at the end of the toun."

Voluntar contribution for Stonhive.

42. Recommended to each particular burgh to make a voluntary contribution towards repairing the harbour of Stonhive "in regard of the great security it affoords to all ships trading upon that part of the cost both from storms and privateers."

Glasgow, 1000 merks.

43. On a petition from the burgh of Glasgow, the convention appointed the agent to pay to the burgh 1000 merks Scots of gratuity, and that out of respect the present conventione have to Robert Rodger, ther present provest and commissioner.

John Home to pursue unfree traders.

44. The convention, "in order to the prosecuting of the unfree traders more successfully, granted full power, warrand and commissione to John Home, writer in Edinburgh, to pursue the haill unfree traders within this kingdome in the terms of the severall acts of parliament made theranent in favours of the royall burrows befor the judge admirall or any other judges competent."

Abridgement of acts.

45. The conventione recomended to their clerks to continue the abridgement of the acts of the conventione and cary it doun to this present tyme, and impouered the committe anent the unfree trade, &c., appointed to sitt after disolving of this present conventione, to cause print the same or not as they shall see cause.

Mr John Buchans petition.

46. Remitted a petition of Mr John Buchan, advocate, to the consideration of the burghs of Edinburgh, Dumbarton, Bamf and Annan.

Kirkwall, Week, unfree trade.

47. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade consideration of opinion of a committee that Kirkwall be discharged of their missive dues and get assignation to pursue unfree traders in Orkney and Zetland, on their assigning to the burghs' agent their share of the profits of the tack of customs and their share of the equivalent and on payment of 500 merks formerly offered by Mr Robert Douglas; also that the town of Wick on payment of their missive dues be assigned to the unfree trade within their bounds.

Profets of burrow tack of the customes.

48. The conventione considering that by the sixten act of the conventione holden at Edinburgh the nynten day of November j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty seven the tack of the customes was to be communicated to the wholl royall burrows, conforme to their proportione of the taxt roll, and now that inregard ther are severall of the burrows who have not as yet gott payment of their proportions of the profets ariseing from the said custome

tack, and that other of the burrows have been imposed on by misrepresentations of the true extent of the profets, therefor the conventione ordaine ther agent to intent ane actione against the persone or persons having in their hands the profet of the burrow tack, not only to make payment to such of the burrows who yet want their share of the profets of the said burrow tack of the customes from the first of November j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty seven to the first of November j^{m} vjj^{c} and tuo, but also to raise such actions as may obtaine the burrows their just rights, and to prosecut the same at the sight and by the directione and advice of the committe anent the unfree trade appointed to sitt after dissolving of this present conventione.

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1708.

Profets of burrow tack of the customes.

49. Appointed the agent to pay certain salaries and gratuities, including "to the Earle of Marr, as presenter of all publick papers to her Majestie, for this year, 1000 merks," and "to Mr William Black, advocate, for collecting the priviledges of the royall burrows from the acts of parliament and publick records and their antient charters, 1000 merks."

Sellaries and gratuities.

50. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed the next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1709.

Act of adjournment.

Follows the Disposition by the burgh of Stirling appointed to be recorded by the 9th act of the preceding convention, whereby, in consideration of the price of 30,000 merks as part of a debt of 69,050 merks due to Cowan's Hospital, the treasurer in name of the burgh disponed to the hospital the lands of Bridgehaugh, lying within the territory of the burgh, on the north side of the water of Forth, and also certain lands lying between the causeway leading to the shore and burgh mill dam, comprehending therein the croft called Mobscroft alias Ducke Dub, the croft called the Orchyeard, and the croft called the Frier Croft.

Disposition by burgh of Stirling to Cowan's Hospital. 29 June 1708.

FOLLOUES the REPORT anent the burgh of Tain appointed to be recorded by the 12th act of the last generall conventione :—

Report anent the burgh of Tain.

At Tain the ninth day of June j^{m} vij^{c} and eight years. Anent and in pursuance of the desire of the tuenty one act of the generall conventione [in July 1708, convened the commissioners of Inverness and Fortrose,] and having seen, examined, and tryed the stat and conditione of the said burgh of Tain, we see and perceive the commone defect of trade with the said burgh, because for want of means or way to effectuat the same, having noe safe way by sea within a considerable space to them, being that a boat of

EDINBURGH 15 July 1708.

Report anent the burgh of Tain.

tuenty bolls victuall burden cannot with safety come within a considerable space of their shoar, besides that the said burgh is not only surrounded with severall burghs of barronies but also that a great many of the country heretors and gentlemen about the place trades in buying and selling tobacco, salt, iron, and other gross commodities, which as we are made to understand tends to the great break and ruine of this burgh, and to evidence it further we see the most considerable part of the toun in a ruinous heap through decay and accidental fire, and that neither the heretors nor possessors are able to repaire the same for want of trade, money or people, and for any commone good they have or can pretend to is much less then the annual rents of the debts they owe and rest to severalls; and after tryall taken in revising, reading, and considering of the contract of agreement past betuixt the said burgh of Tain and Alexander Stronach, master meassone, for the building of the said tolbuith and steeple and of the recepts of payment granted by him to the said burgh, among which we have seen and read a particular recept from the said master measone and subscribed be him befor famous witnesses in favours of the said burgh of Tain for the said five hundred merks given by the royall burrows to this burgh for the building of their tolbuith and steeple, and having called the said master measone to oune and acknouledge his said recept to have been granted by him he came present before ws and did the same; and likewise the said tolbuith and steeple with the pricket thereof consisting of six storry high, together with a counsell house of tuo houses hight adjoyned thereto, are finished to the securing of the plateforme and bartisone head of the said steeple, which in effect is a considerable work, and as was made evident to us hes involved the place in much more debt then wes conserted on in the said contract with the said master measone; and as to the renunciatione granted by this burgh to the Earle of Cromerty to a part of the commonty of Morewich Muir, for which the Earle gave them bond for the sum of ane thousand merks, we have conveened befor us the wholl members of counsell of this place, together with a great part of the most knowing and ancient inhabitants thereof, and after communing with them thereanent to the full we see and perceive that the said bargaine whereupon the said renunciatione folloued is profetable to the place, being that every one declared that the burgh was nothing the better formerly of the fruits and emoluments of the said commonty but in

EDINBURGH. 15 July 1708.

Report anent the burgh of Tain.

the contrair that the burgh was at vast charges and expence in defending their right thereto, being contraverted and debated for many years befor the said renunciatione with the said Earle of Cromerty and many other adjacent heretors to the said commonty, which clearly convinces us by all that we can see and learne the said renunciatione was much more profetable to the burgh then if left in the former state it was in, by quhich the place would be lyable in a great deall of expence in defending the same and that though they gained it would be so farr from paying their expences that it would not yield hardly to the interest of the sum granted be the Earle of Cromerty. And this we returne as our report to the generall convention of burrows.

MEETINGS *of* COMMITTEE, *appointed by the 39th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 6 November 1708.

6 November 1708.

Sederunt.

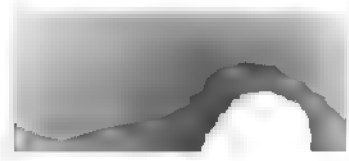
Edinburgh, George Warrender; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Haddingtoun, (*blank.*)

Preses.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Act anent the drawbacks for salt, herring, salmond, &c.

2. The committe considering that whereas by the eight article of the treaty of union diverse encouragements were stipulated for carrying on the fishing trade, and in particular for encouragement of the herring fishing, that there should be allowed and payed to the subjects inhabitants of Great Brittain (during the present allouances for other fish) ten shillings five pence sterling for every barrall of white herrings which shall be exported from Scotland, and whereas also these encouragements have not hitherto been alloued or payed to the subjects inhabitants of Great Brittain, exporters of white herring from Scotland, nor any debentures granted for the same or for any other fish since the union, and whereas diverse difficulties have been moved to the great discouragement of the traders exporters of fish, and amongst others that the quantity of salt imported and not consumed was very great and uncertain and would give occasione to defraud the duty payable for forreign salt imported since the union and applyed for curing of fishes, as also that the quantity of white herring loyally cured and exported was uncertain, therefor the royall burrows at their last conventione did impouer us by ane act dated the



Edinburgh. 6 November 1708.

Act, anent the drawbacks for salt, herring, salmond, &c.

fifteen day of July last to make enquiry concerning the matters of trade, especially with respect to the fisherie, pursuant whereunto and to the end that the reall quantity of salt imported before the first of May j^m^ vij^c^ and seven and not yet consumed, as also the drawbacks truely due for the herrings exported in the termes of the forsaid article may appear for giving light and directione in that matter, we by the authority forsaid hereby enact and ordain the several royall burrows to whom this shall be transmitted to take exact inspection and make enquiry of the quantity of forreign salt not yet consumed, as also of the quantity of white herring, salmond, and other fishes and beef and pork loyally cured already exported or upon hand for exportatione (since the forsaid first day of May j^m^ vij^c^ and seven) by any of their burgers or inhabitants within their jurisdictione; and farder by the authority aforsaid we enact and ordain that every royall burrow herein concerned doe betuixt the date hereof and the first day of January next to come transmitt ane exact and faithfull account of the forsaid quantitys of herrings and other fishes, beef and pork, cured and exported in the termes of law, together with the quantities of salt, herrings, fishes, beef and pork, yet on hand and unconsumed as aforsaid, to the clerks of the royall burrows in order that the same may be duly recorded in our books, that by this means a full view of every ones demands on account of the salt and drawbacks may be laid open, whereby the difficulties that hitherto have obstructed and hindred the obtaining of the forsaid stipulated encouragements and drawbacks may be removed, and if any is so neglectfull of his oun interest as to conceall and not give a faithfull account of that matter in so farr as it concerns himself he most blame himself if he is excluded and has not the benefite of the commone endeavours used or to be used for obtaining of justice in this matter.

1 December 1708.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Warrender; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Kirkaldie, Dunbar, Bamf and Queensferry, (*blank*).

Preses.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Petition of merchants anent drawbacks.

2. On a petition from several merchants, referring to the eighth article of the treaty of union stating that the officers of her Majesty's customs had refused to pay the allowances on exported fish, the committee appointed the dean of guild of Edinburgh and Sir James Smollet to consider the affair and bring in an overture to next meeting of committee.

EDINBURGH. 1 December 1708.

3. The dean of gild of Edinburgh having presented to the committe a letter from the magistrats of Campvere, with the double of ane placaet inclosed, both in Dutch, which being considered the committe appointed them to be translated into English and then recorded in the burrow books, and appointed the advertisement when done into English to be put into the Courrant for the informatione of the merchants and all concerned, of which letter and placaet the tennor follow:—

Letter from the magistrats of Campvere.

Noble and honourable lords. Wee duly received your honours letter of the 15th of July last, in ansuer to what we were pleased to writ to your honours the 18 of May preceeding, from which we observe your assurances of performing for the future all that's stipulated by the staple contract and that in the meantime you had ratified and revived all former acts for the strict observance of the staple and ordained the same to be put in due executione, and moreover assuring us of everything that may tend to keep up a good understanding betuixt your honours and us, which assurances were most acceptable to us, that the staple which is much decayed may once be putt in a better conditione, for which end we have already (to give further proof of our readiness) procured a very fitt man of warr, mounted with forty four guns and two hundred and fourty men, for convoying the ships bound to and from Scotland and to saill against the 20th of this instant October, as your honours will at more length see from the printed advertisement of the counsell of admirality of this province, whereof we send your honours herewith a coppy, of which we could not forbear to give your honours previous notice, that your honours may give such orders timeously thereanent as your honours shall think fitt; and we againe assure your honours that we will live in true friendship and good correspondence with your honours, not doubting but the same will be ansuered by the like zeall upon your honours part, wherewith we commend your honours in God's protectione and remaine, noble and honourable lords, your honours good friends, [etc.] Signed: PETER HAAK KERKMAN.

Letter.

Advertisement from the admiralty of Zeland.

Advertisement: The counsell of admirality in Zeland, takeing to consideratione the reasonable petition of the trading men of this province desireing convoy for their ships to the westward and to Scotland, have after due deliberatione and for satisfying their reasonable instances, resolved to grant the ship Primier Noble, mounted with seventy two guns and four hundred men, to convoy the ships westward bound and the

Edinburgh. 1 December 1708.

Orange Galley, mounted with fourty four guns and two hundred and fourty men, to conduct the ships designed to and from Scotland. The convoy westward bound will sail the first of November and that for Scotland the 20th October next, according to which every one may regulat himself. Done in the counsell of admirality in Zeland, in the palace or court of Midleburgh, 6th October 1708.

Advertissement from the admiralty of Zeland.

Sir Andrew Kennedy and Panton.

4. Remitted to the dean of guild of Edinburgh and the commissioner of Dumbarton to consider and report upon the differences between Sir Andrew Kennedy of Clowburn and Robert Panton merchant in Campvere.

Kilrenny.

5. With reference to the differences between the burgh of Kilrenny and James Bethune of Balfour, the committe appointed both parties to attend on 16th inst. with their claims that the affair may be adjusted.

Unfree trade.

6. Appointed four burghs to consider the affair of unfree trade, particularly what burghs of barony and regality should be augmented as to their share of the tax roll.

3 December 1708.

Memoriall to commissioners of customs.

7. The committe gave in the following memorial to the commissioners of her Majesties customes, of which the tennor followes:— Memoriall from the committe of the royal burrows to the commissioners of the customes. It being represented by severall merchants to the said committe that, albeit they have required from the collectors of the customes the drawbacks for herring and other fishes loyally cured and exported by them, conform to the act of parliament made in their favours, yet notwithstanding the saids merchants have received no satisfactione nor allouance from the collectors, and therefor the committe desire to know how farr the commissioners doe autherize their collectors in refusing the drawback or if they will be pleased to appoint these collectors to give satisfaction to the merchants in their demands, seeing the law is very clear and express in that matter. To which memoriall the saids [commissioners] returned their ansuer as followes:—Gentlemen. Having received a memorial from a committe of the royal burrows by Sir James Smollet, desireing to know how farr the commissioners of the customes, &c., do authorize their collectors in refusing drawbacks on fish cured with salt imported befor the first of May 1707, as also that they would appoint the collectors to give satisfactione to the merchants demands, seeing (as is alledged) the law is very clear in this matter, and that the royall burrows designe to represent this affair to the parliament of Great Brittain; in answer to

which we do humbly represent that whatever the royall burrows may apprehend to be the law in this case as to drawbacks upon their fish cured with salt imported before the Union, yet seeing this drawback demanded is a drawback of £0, 10s. 5d. per barrell which was appointed in consideratione of the high duty upon foreign salt, and that salt imported into Scotland befor the first of May 1707 did not pay this high duty, we do with all submissione think we have reasone to demur to this demand made untill the matter be further cleared and we obtain a superior direction for it. *Sic subscribitur:* Ja. Isamson, Alex. Rigby, Rt. Dickson, William Bayle. Custome house, Edinburgh, 3d December, 1708. To the honourable the Royall Burghs sitting at Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH. 3 December 1708.

Memoriall to commissioners of customs.

8. The committe approved ane address to be sent to the parliament of Great Brittain in relation to the drawbacks and other concerns, and ordained the said address to be presented to the parliament, and that the overtures agreed to in November j^{m} vij^{c} and seven be all extracted out care of the burrow books, with the coppies of the letters sent to the severall persons of quality at London, and that these be recommended to the special of the representative of Edinburgh and other representatives of the burrows for manageing the same befor the parliament with all care and dilligence, of which address the tennor followes:—To the honourable the knights, citizens and burgesses in parliament assembled, the humble petition of the representatives of the royal burrows of North Brittain, formerly called Scotland, humbly sheweth. That by the eight article of the act of Union it is enacted that all fish exported from Scotland to parts beyond the seas which shall be cured with forreign salt only shall have the same eases, premiums and drawbacks, as are or shall be alloued to exporters of the like fish from England. That for encouragement of herring fishing there shall be allowed and payed to the subjects inhabitants of Great Brittain (during the allouance for other fish) ten shillings and five pence sterling for every barrell of white herring that shall be exported from Scotland; and by the said act it is statut that there shall be alloued to the exporters of beef and pork for sale five shillings for each barrell. Upon the faith and credit of the said act, your petitioners have cured with forreign salt only and exported from Scotland into forreign parts severall quantities of white herrings and other fish and of beef and pork. That many of the merchants of the said royall burrows have

Commissioners answer.

EDINBURGH. 3 December 1708.

Commissioners answer.

applyed themselves to the collectors of her Majesties customes and other proper officers in Scotland for payment of the said ten shillings and five pence sterling per barrell of white herrings, and also for the eases, premiums, and drawbacks by the said act alloued upon exportatione of other fish by them so cured and exported, and for the saids drawbacks upon beef and pork, yet the saids officers not only refuse to pay the said ten shillings and five pence sterling per barrell for the white herrings by them so cured and exported, and of the said five shillings per barrell of beef and pork, but even to make out debentures for the encouragements, eases, premiums and drawbacks, in and by the said act alloued, which the merchants have oft represented to the commissioners of her Majesties customes, yet they have not been able to obtain any relief. Wherefore your petitioners most humbly pray your honours to afford them such relief in the premises as to your great wisdome shall seem meet.

Gilbert Stewart nominat to negotiat affair of drawbacks.

9. The committe nominat Mr Gilbert Stewart, merchant in Edinburgh, to negotiat the affair of the drawbacks at London, with their address to the Brittish Parliament, and ordained the draught of his commission to be ready against next meeting of the committe, provyding aluayes the said Mr Gilbert Stewart shall have no claim against the royall burrows for any expences or gratificatione upon account of his service in this matter but that he be satisfied out of the first end of the drawbacks by the merchants concerned at sight of the committe.

Letter of thanks to Earle of Godolphin.

10. The committe, in regard of the good offices done to our merchants last year by the Earle of Godolphin, lord high thesaurer, in relation to the drawbacks and their other concerns, ordained ane letter of thanks to be writ to his lordship and withall to intreat the continuance of his favour in that affair when application shall be made to the parliament, and recomended to Sir James Smollet to prepare the samen.

Letter to Sir Isaac Newton, coining 2d. 3d. and 4d. pieces.

11. The committe, finding it would much impart the natione to have some smaller pieces of silver coined then six pence pieces, did recomend to my lord Forglan to interpose with the Earle of Lauderdale to writ to Sir Isaac Newton that a warrand be granted for coining in Scotland a sum not exceeding eight thousand pounds sterling, in tuo pence, three pence, and four pence pieces; and in the meantime ordained another letter to be writt by the lord provest of Edinburgh, in name of the burrows, to the said Sir Isaac for that effect, and the draught to be presented to the next sederunt.

4 December 1708. EDINBURGH. 4 December 1708.

12. The convention appointed Mr Gilbert Stewart their commissioner for repairing with all conveniency to the city of London with their address to be presented to the parliament of Great Brittain in relation to the drawbacks due to the Scots merchants for fishes and others exported since 1st May 1707, and to inform the members of the state and import of that business, and to do every other thing fit and convenient in order to bring the same to a conclusion. Commissione to Gilbert Stewart, drawbacks.

13. Ordained that the expenses of the commissioner appointed by the preceding act be paid to him by the several merchants who claim the drawbacks conform to their proportions and shares therein. Expenses of commissioner.

14. The committe approved of the draught of ane letter of thanks to be sent to the Earle of Godolphin, lord high thesaurer, for the good offices done to our merchants last year in relation to the drawbacks and their other concerns, of which the tennor followes :—My Lord. The merchants of Edinburgh and severall other touns of this part of Great Brittain having applyed to us concerning the encouragements and drawbacks upon herrings and other fishes exported by them since the first of May j^{m} vij^{c} and seven, to which they are intituled by the eight article of the act of Union, and it being our province to use outtmost endeavours in behalf of the merchants who reside within our severall burghs, we could think upon no better means then to address your lordship, of whose justice and favour our merchants do acknouledge they have had many good proofs and experiments, for which we return your lordship our most humble and hearty thanks, and since that bussiness most necessarly be sifted befor the parliament of Great Brittain we have instructed this gentleman, Mr Gilbert Stewart, who is the bearer, to wait upon your lordship with ane coppy of our petitione, earnestly beseeching your lordship would be pleased to vouchsafe your assistance, especially seeing it is a matter of universall concern to all North Brittain, and we know nothing will more effectually cement and unite South and North Brittain then the parliaments favourable ansuer in this affair, for thereby the mouths of enemies will be stoped who still continue to possess both our merchants and people with prejudices against the Union, and in particular that this of the drawbacks will not be successfull, but we hope better things and rest assured that in this nationall concern your lordships conduct will bring it to ane happy issue, which will be ane obligatione never to be forgotten, by, my lord, your lordships most humble servants. Letter of thanks to Earle of Goodolphin.

15. The committe approved the draught of a letter to be sent to Sir Letter to Sir Isaac Newton.

EDINBURGH. 4 December 1708.

Letter to Sir Isaac Newton.

Isaac Newton that a warrand be granted for coining a sum in Scotland not exceeding eight thousand pounds sterling, in tuo pence, three pence, and four pence pieces, of which the tennor followes:—Very honorabill. It being represented to us by severall of our merchants and trading people that it would be of importance to them and to this wholl country of North Brittain that some small species of money, such as tuo pence, three pence and four pence, were coined to be circulat through this part of the kingdome, as was formerly in use before the Union, we thought it duty to applye to your honour for procureing ane allouance to the generall and other officers of the mint at Edinburgh to coin the forsaid species to the value of eight thousand pounds and not exceeding the same, out of what coinage yet remanes to be coined in this part of Great Brittain. This will give much satisfactione to our people in generall and will conduce much to their ease and conveniency. We have many experiencies that the Queens Majestie does incline upon all occasions to give tockens of her affectione to all her subjects, and if yow will be pleased to represent this matter to her Majestie we make no doubt of her gracious ansuer, and your appearing for us will lay perpetuall obligationes upon, Sir, your most humble servants.

Overture anent fishing.

16. The committe approved of the overture given in by the commissioner for Dunbar for encouragement of fishing, and appointed the same to be recorded in the borrow book, and ane coppy to be transmitted with the overtures relating to trade to the parliament of Great Brittain, of which overture the tennor followes:—Overture for the encouragement of fishing. That all forreign salt which shall pay her Majesties duty and happen to be caryed coastwayes from one port to another for the benefite of fishing, and which may be lost at sea, that the merchant importer thereof who payed her Majesties duty be relieved of the same upon sufficient proof that the salt was cast auay or lost at sea, especially considering that this is no new burden upon the customes inrespect it has been the constant practice of all tacksmen and managers of the customes, both when in the Queens hand and when rouped, to return to the merchants all such dutyes as they payed upon the event of their goods being cast auay. Item, that there be allouance given for the waist of all forreign salt caryed coastwayes from one port of the kingdome to another for the benefite of the trade of fishing proportionable to what is given in England upon rock and white salt caryed coastwayes.

Signing address and letters, Gilbert Stewart.

17. Granted warrant to the preses to sign the address and several letters agreed to by the committee, and ordained that Gilbert Stewart shall negotiate his

commission by advice of the representatives of the burghs in the house of commons and observe all instructions to be transmitted to him by the committee. EDINBURGH. 4 December 1708.

Generall list of white herrings, salmond, codfish, &c., beef and pork [exported and to be exported] cured with forreigne salt only, imported before 1st May 1707, and of forreign salt on hand also imported before said 1st May, belonging to merchants and others within that part of the United Kingdome of Great Brittain called Scotland, according to the particular lists given in to the clerk of the royall burrows by the severall proprietors, pursueant to ane act of a committe of the said royall burrows dated 6 November 1708 and by the said act appointed to be recorded: White herrings, &c., export, forreigne salt.

The particular burghs and touns to which the respective claims do belong.	White herring exported and to be exported.	Salmon exported and to be exported.	Dry and wett code, 24 inches.	Dry and wett code, 18 inches.	Dry and wett code, undistinguished.	Barrel'd wett code.	Beef.	Pork.	Forreigne salt unconsumed.
	lasts barr.	*lasts bar.*				*lasts bar.*	*lasts bar.*	*lasts bar*	*Bolls.*
Edinburgh, Leith, Dalkeith, Peebles	954 4	38 1½	7,370	...	460	...	...	...	7,260
Glasgow, Renfrew	243 8	3 8	...	...	...	...	6 9	...	3,655
Greenock, Craufoordsdyck	214 8	3 8½	...	...	...	0 9	0 10	...	1,149
Air, Stranrawer, Kirkudbright		2 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Eymouth	11 9	...	...	...	3,000	...	...	...	20
Dunbar	243 4½	...	...	...	27,400	...	...	...	319
Northberuick,	12 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	21
Hadington, Prestonpans, Morisons haven	269 3½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Queensferry	35 1½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Burntisland, Kinghorn	46 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ellie	169 10½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St Monance	40 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pittenueem	126 6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anstruther Wester	37 1½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anstruther Easter	253 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Kilrenny	134 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Craill	292 6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Dundie, Perth	248 5	8 11½	1,667	1,975	1,755	...	...	...	1,323
Aberbrothock, Montrose	277 8½	32 2	22,065	2,605	31,800	10 8	...	...	491½
Aberdeen	53 3	182 0½	...	...	186,133	...	10 1	36 1½	533½
Bamf		8 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Elgin	19	...	...	...	...	9	3 2	7	75
Fortrose	38 6	...	...	...	..	4 10	...	...	18
Inverness	80 3½	59 8	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Totals	3,802 11	339 3	31,102	4,580	250,528	17 0	20 10	36 8½	15,356

Edinburgh. 12 April 1709.

Meetings of Committee, *held at* Edinburgh.

12 April 1709.

Sederunt. Edinburgh, George Warrender; Hadingtoun, Richard Miller; Linlithgow, Alexander Glen; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Queensferry, James Dalgleish.

Preses. 1. George Warrender, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Memorial and letter from Lord Weemyss, protection of trade. 2. The same day, was read a memoriall from the right honorabill the Earle of Weemyss, with a letter direct to the lord provest of Edinburgh, relating to the trade of Scotland and protectione thereof, another letter also from the said earle desiring to know the number of seamen in Scotland and what number may be there more then sufficient to navigat the ships, barks, &c., thereof; which being considered by the commite they were of oppinion that a letter of thanks be writ by the dean of gild of Edinburgh to the Earle of Weemyss, acquainting his lordship that the affair contained in his first letter and memorial was prevented by my lord high admirall his conferring the command of all her Majesties ships in North Brittain upon the lord provost, which was effectuall provisione for the trade in those parts; and as to the other letter that they were resolved to communicat the same to all the maritim burrows as the most propper means to satisfe his lordship in the said matter, ordaining them either to bring up or transmitt lists of their seamen betuixt and the fifteenth day of July next.

Letters to maritim burrows as to lists of ships and seamen. 3. The comitte did recomend to the lord provost to acquaint the maritim burrows in the letters to be sent to them with the command of the cruizers upon the north coast latly conferred by the lord high admirall upon his lordship.

Letter to Lord Weemyss. 4. My Lord. I gave your lordship ane former account that I had received your lordships of the 15th and 17th of March last, with the memoriall therein, since which time I have advertised severall of the neighbouring royall burrows to meet at Edinburgh touards the more effectuall executione of your lordships commissione, and accordingly they have conveened, and after reading of your lordships letters and memoriall to the committe they are very sensible of the honour and respect my

lord high admirall and your lordship has put upon the royall burrows and the care and concern you have shewed in securing the trade of North Brittain and for which they return your lordship their most humble and hearty thanks. Meantime it is their unanimous oppinione that I should in their name writ to the wholl maritim burghs of this natione that they may prepare lists in the terms of your lordships letter of the severall seamen within their bounds, and either to bring up or transmitt these lists against the fifteenth day of July next, whereby your lordship may haue full informatione and light in that matter. Your lordship knows there be a great many burghs of barrony and regality who have a considerable number of seamen within their bounds, and how farr they will be influenced by our advertisement it is uncertain, so that if your lordship think fitt to issue particular orders to the landslords and masters of these unfree burghs for the above purposes it may conduce to accomplish the wholl designe, and the committe have delayed to give them any advertisement till they had your lordships thoughts thereupon. My lord, we cannot but be convinced that both my lord high admirall and your lordship have had the trade of this part of Brittaine much in your mind and under your deliberat thoughts by the provisione that is already made, and the merchant traders must be sensible that much care is taken of them by the authority your lordship have put in the hands of the lord provost of Edinburgh, who we are confident will faithfully serve in that statione, and I am very hopefull that such returns of duty and affectione to her Majestie shall be alwayes rendered by the royall burrows as may evidence their sense of her Majesties royall favours. We are in all humble duty as becometh, my lord, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* GEO. WARRENDER, *Preses.* Edinburgh, 12 Aprill 1709.

EDINBURGH. 12 April 1709. Letter to Lord Wemyss.

9 May 1709.

Edinburgh, George Warrender; Hadingtoun, Linlithgow, Dumbarton, Innerkeithing and Queensferry (*blank*). Sederunt.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The committe, in pursueance of a letter from the right honourable the Earle of Wemyss to Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, and of ane order from the said earle to the masters and landslords of Lists of ships and seamen.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

General Convention, *held at* Edinburgh.

[illegible]

Edinburgh, George Warrender, and Robert Moubray; Perth, James Crie; Dundee, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, John Alerdes; Stirling, John Erskine; Linlithgow, Alexander Glen; St Andrews, Alexander Watson; Glasgow, Robert Rodger; Ayr, Robert Moor; Haddington, Richard Miller; Disart, John Mortimer; Kirkcaldy, James Oswald; Montrose, Robert Turnbull; Anstruther Easter, George Scott; Dumfries, John Corsbie; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Bruntisland, George Thomson; Inverkeithing, James Dudgeon; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechin, James Spence; Irving, John Marshall; Jedburgh, Walter Scott; Pittenweem, William Borthwick; Dumfermling, David Wilsone; Anstruther Wester, Henry Beattie; Selkirk, Andrew Wauch; Dumbartoun, Sir James Smollet; Renfrew, Mr John Cochran; Dumbar, William Faa; Lanerk, William Inglis; Aberbrothock, John Hutcheson; Elgin, William Gordon; Peebles, Robert Forrester; Craill, Henry Craufoord; Tain, William Rose; Culross, George Wilsone; Bamff, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Whithern, John M'Gowan; Forfar, Charles Dickson; Forras, Robert Dunbar; Ruthglen, John Scott; Northberwick, James Miller; Lauder, Mr George Buchan; Kilrenny, James Peacock; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Lochmaben, Mr John Henderson; Neugallaway, John Chalmer; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Fortrose, William

Tolme ; Week, James Murray ; Kirkuall, John Coventrie ; Inverbervie, Alexander Arbuthnet ; Campbeltoun, Mr Neil Campbell. (Thirteen burghs *blank*.) EDINBURGH, 5 July 1709.

5 July 1709.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses, and abjuration subscribed by him. Preses.

2. Members who had not previously qualified took the oath of allegiance and abjuration and subscribed the same with the assurance. Members qualified.

3. Appointed a committee to revise the commissions. Revising commissions.

6 July 1709.

4. Approved of the whole commissions produced. Commissions approved.

5. Appointed certain commissioners to enquire why Kintoir and Dingwall did not accept of the annual missives but returned the same. Kintoir, Dingwall.

6. Appointed a committee to consider the heads of the general missive. Committee.

7. On report of the committee the convention appointed certain articles to be heads of next general missive. Heads of missive continued

7 July 1709.

8. Appointed James Osuald of Dunnikier, with all convenient haste, to set about the reparatione of the harbour of Burntisland. Burntisland.

9. The committee appointed by the 21 act of last general convention reported that they had visited the burgh of Tain and made exact enquiry into the "antient constitutione, use and wont of the electione of magistrats and toun counsell of the said burgh for fourty years bypast, and had made a new sett conforme to the said burghs antient constitution to the satisfactione of the inhabitants there." The convention ratified and approved of the sett, and appointed it to be recorded after this convention. Sett of the burgh of Tain.

10. Appointed a committee to visit the state and condition of the burgh of Forras and report to next general convention. Forras.

11. The convention having considered a memorial and letter from the Earl of Wemyss, appointed a letter of thanks to be written to the earl for his good offices to the burghs. Letter of thanks to Earl of Wemyss.

12. The conventione agreed to ane address to her Majestie of which the tennor followes :—The humble address of the royall burrows to the Queens Majestie. May it please your Majestie. The salmond fishing Address to her Majestie.

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1709.

Address to her Majestie.

was so valuable a branch of the trade of this part of the United Kingdome that the generall decay thereof cannot but sensibly affect the wholl nation and more especially your royall burrows who are most concerned in the trade thereof. It is very well known that nothing hath so much contributed to this decay of salmond as the killing of black fish and young frie, and although many good laws have been made for preventing thereof yet the end hitherto hath not been attained. The northern countryes finding by experience that Collonell Grants company quartered in the Highlands was very usefull in discovering the killers of black fish and young frie, were incouraged to petitione your Majestie for ane augmentatione of the said company, and your Majestie being graciousalie pleased to add thirty sentinels thereto the salmond fishing in those parts did immediately revive. And seeing there is no doubt but if the like method were pursued in the other parts of the natione the like effect would follow, wee do most earnestly intreat your Majestie would from your innate goodness not only grant the same augmentatione to the other Highland company commanded by Lieutenant Colonell Campbell of Finnab, with orders to the said Collonell to give his utmost assistance to the justices of peace and others in discovering and bringing to due punishment the transgressours of the forsaids laws and acts of parliament, but also command such others of your officers as you shall see meet to quarter their companies in such places of the southern countreys as they may oversee the principall rivers and concurr with the justices and others to the end aforsaid. Which address the conventione appointed to be signed by their preses.

Memoriall to barrons of exchequer, wool.

13. The conventione agreed to ane address to the barrons of exchequer of which the tennor followes :—Memoriall from the conventione of the royall burrows, to the lord chief barron and rest of the barrons of exchequer. That wher by the fifteen article of the Union it is provided that tuo thousand pounds sterling per annum out of the equivalent for the space of seven years shall be applyed towards encourageing and promoting the manufactur of course wool within those shires that produce the samen, and seeing the royall burrows do bear ane sixth part of the wholl burdens laid upon North Brittain, and that through the decay of trade the forsaid burden is heavy upon them, it is humbly expected and desired that as occasione offers your lordship will give them all possible incouragement,

EDINBURGH. 7 July 1709.

particularly that in proportioning the forsaid tuo thousand pounds sterling yearly for erecting of manufactures your lordship will have regard to such of the royall burrows as are situat in those southern and western shires where course wool is produced and appoint the manufactures to be erected therein, and all due care and dilligence shall be used to improve the same to the best advantage. Which memoriall the convention appointed to be signed by their preses. Memoriall to barrons of exchequer.

14. Appointed a committee to visit the harbour and pier of Anstruther Easter and report. Anstruther Easter.

15. Anent the petitione from the burghs of Stirling, Linlithgow and Lanerk, keepers of the weights and measures, shewing that albeit, in obedience to ane act of conventione j^{m} vij^{c} and eight, they had prepared setts of the saids weights and measures and that the wholl burrows should have provided themselves therewith betuixt and the first of November last, yet few or none have taken out the same, craving therefor the conventione would be pleased to renue their former order for that end; which being considered by the conventione, they ordained such burghs as have not taken out their weights and measures, in obedience to the former appointment, to do the same betuixt and the first of November next, under the penalty of thirty pounds Scots to be payed by each burgh failyieing so to doe, attour performance. Weights and measures to be taken out.

16. The convention, considering that there is resting to the general receiver £480 sterling, being eight months' supply for the six pounds of the tax roll laid on unfree traders, and that there is imposed other four months' supply which will be due before next annual convention, and that the burghs are threatened with quartering for payment of said sum; and that the commissioners who were appointed to confer with Gavin Plumer, receiver of the supply, reported that he was willing to make payment of the whole sums on the conventione becoming bound to repay him against next general meeting, with the annual rent thereof, "and a consideration for the quartering which he was content to refer to the conventione themselves." The conventione bound themselves accordingly and ordained the several burghs to pay their proportions along with the missive dues. Act anent paying deficiency of supply.

17. Appointed the burghs of St Andrews and Kirkaldie to meet with the magistrates of Disart and Bailie Black "in order to accomodat all differences betuixt them." Magistrates of Disart.

11 July 1709.

18. The conventione, taking to their consideratione that all methods Committee for unfree trade, etc.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1709.

Committe for unfree trade, etc.

formerly used to oblige the burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders to accept of the communicatione of trade, in the terms of the act of parliament made thairanent, and to relieve the royall burrows of the ten pounds of the hundred pounds of the taxt roll for their said communicatione of trade, hath been hitherto ineffectuall, and that the relief arising from such of the said unfree traders as have already accepted and agreed for a proportione of the said ten pounds to be payed by them amounts only to one pound eleven shilling, and the same is not payed conforme to their agreements, do therefor appoint the burghs of Edinburgh, Perth, Dundie, Aberdeen, Stirling, Linlithgow, St Andrews, Glasgow, Air, Hadingtoun, Kirkaldie, Montrose, Dumfreis, Inverness, Irving, Dumbarton, Renfrew, Dunbar, Crail, Tain, Bamf, Lauder, Annan and Queensferry, whereof three to be a quorum, Edinburgh being aluayes one, to meet as a committe after dissolving of this present generall conventione, with pouer to them to call befor them the wholl unfree traders who have not formerly agreed for the said communicatione of trade, and to compon, transact and agree with them thereanent, and to give such ease of bygones as they shall think fitt and agree for what proportione shall be payed by them in time coming till the next annual conventione; and if any of the said unfree traders shall refuse or neglect to transact or agree with the said committe as said is, the conventione appointed the burrow agent to pursue them befor the judge competent and alloued to him a premium of tuenty per cent out of the first and readyest of what he shall recover from such of the unfree traders as shall refuse to transact and agree with the said committe, and declared that the said premium shall be in full to him of all he can ask or crave of the conventione in name of sellary or expences in pursueing thereof; and appointed their agent to receive instructions from time to time from the said committe and to proceed accordingly; and ordained the remander of what shall be so recovered after deduction of the said premium to be imployed at sight of the said committee in payment of supply that may fall due betuixt and the next annuall conventione upon account of the six pounds in the taxt roll undertaken by Sir Robert Forbes for the unfree trade; and recommended to the said committe to take informatione of the said unfree traders at such of the royall burrows as are next adjacent to them for what proportione they may be able to bear; and the conventione declared that if any of

the said unfree traders shall compone and agree with the said committe by vertue of the said agent his dilligence that the conventione will take to their consideratione the trouble and expense he shall be at in pursueing thereof. EDINBURGH. 11 July 1709. Committe for unfree trade, etc.

19. Ordained that the burghs of barony and regality and other unfree traders with whom agreements have been made for the communication of trade but whose contributions are in arrear should be quartered upon until they pay the same. Burghs of Barony and regality to be quartered on.

20, 21. Remitted petitions by the burghs of Dumfries and Jedburgh to the consideration of the committee on unfree trade. Dumfries, unfree trade.

22. Recommended to the commissioners of Edinburgh, Bamf and Annan, "to endeavour to compose all differences betuixt the burgh of Peebles and the laird of Horsburgh; and in case they cannot agree the same, ordained their agent to concurr with the said burgh in defending their just rights and priviledges against incroachments." Differences betuixt Peebles and Horsburgh.

23. The conventione, considering that by the act of her Majesties last sessione of the parliament of Scotland, dated the fifth of February j^{m} vij^{c} and seven years, it is ordained that the city of Edinburgh elect their commissioner and the other royall burghs to elect each of them a commissioner as they have been in use to elect commissioners to the parliament, as at length is prescribed by the said act; and understanding that in the last sessione of parliament there were severall objections made against the qualificationes of commissioners and the forme of their commissions and how they ought to be verified, which has been chiefly occasioned through the not knowing the plateforme of the burrows; therefor to prevent further mistakes and that burgesses elected to represent in the parliament of Great Brittain may be put to no trouble or expences on that head, the conventione did revive, ratifie, and perpetually confirme the act of the generall conventione of burrows anno j^{m} vj^{c} fourty tuo, ordaining all commissiones to parliaments, conventions of estates or burrows, to be subscribed be the magistrats themselves and the clerk of the burgh, in name of their counsell, and the seall of the burgh affixt therto or by way of extract, under the subscriptione of their clerk and seall of cause; as also they ratified, approved, and confirmed the qualifications of the persons as established by the present plateforme, that is to say that the commissions testifie and declare the commissioners to be men fearing God, of the true protestant religion publickly professed and autherised by the laws of this Platforme of commissiones.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1709.

Platforme of commissiones.

kingdome, without suspicione in the contrair, expert in the commone affaires of the burrows, merchants, tradsmen, and inhabitants within the burgh, bearing all portable charges with their neighbours and bears a part of the publick burdens and can tine and wine in all their affaires; or, if the persons elected commissioners be not merchants, traffickers, and constant residenters as above said, that it shall not be a sufficient qualificatione that their commissions testifie them to be proprietors of lands holding burgage of the burgh to the value of three thousand merks except they shall upon their solemn oaths depone upon the verity of the said attestatione and value of the lands. Declaring hereby that all commissions to be granted hereafter to persons for electing burgesses to serve in the parliament of Great Brittain, conventions of estates, and conventions of burrows, shall bear the qualificationes both of the commissioners and commissions above written, under the penalties contained in the severall acts of burrous, over and above the casting of their commissions. And farder, the conventione ordained the severall communities of burghs, befor they proceed to elect their commissioners to choise a burgess to represent them in the parliament of Great Brittain, to take such oaths as are by law required, and that the commissions do bear the same, under the penalties and disabilities abovewritten. And to the end that each burgh may be sufficiently advertised hereof, the conventione ordained their agent to transmitt duplicats of this present act to them that the same may be registrat in their counsell books, and appointed the counsell of the burgh to return their recept of the said duplicat to the generall clerks of the burrows to be by them marked in the records of the conventione.

Inverkeithing.

24. Allowed to the burgh of Inverkeithing 300 merks towards the repairing of their harbour.

John Buchan, £200.

25. On petition of John Buchan, sometime agent of the burghs, the convention allowed him £200 Scots of present supply, and remitted to the committee on unfree trade to endeavour to adjust all differences between him and the present agent.

George Smollet elected agent.

26. The conventione unanimously elected Mr George Smollet, advocat, to be their agent in place of Sir Robert Forbes, advocat, and alloued to him the sellary and casuality thereto belonging, who compearing accepted his office, maid faith *de fideli*, and did take the oaths of

alegiance and abjuratione and subscribed the same with the assurance; and the conventione recomended to the committe anent the agents accompts to draw up instructions to be given to him anent his management of the affaires of the royall burrows as they shall think fitt. EDINBURGH. 11 July 1709. George Smollet elected agent.

27. The convention, considering that the taxt roll is to be altered the next year, doe statut and ordain that no commissioner for any burgh be admitted a member of the next annual conventione unless with his commissione he produce a discharge of the haill bygone missive dues resting by the burgh he represents, and that such as faill to do the same shall be farder augmented in the taxt roll. Missive dues, taxt roll.

28. The convention, "considering that there is a considerable sum due to Sir Robert Forbes which cannot be got cleared in regard of his absence forth of the kingdome," remitted to a committee to adjust accounts with him, and to consider what gratification should be given to his servitor. Sir Robert Forbes, agent.

12 July 1709.

29. Appointed Mr George Smollet, agent, to pay the agent's accounts from July 1708 to July 1709, extending to £7618, 18s. Scots, and the burghs to pay their proportions of the missive dues. Agents accompts.

The following items appear in the accounts:—

To Robert Morison, door keeper of exchequer, . .	£11	12	0
To the gardner for furnishing floures, . . .	11	12	0
For a boat sent express to the north with ane express from the admirality, ...	120	0	0
For printing tuo hundred coppies of Wemyss orders .	36	0	0

30. Ordained the agent to pay to Sir Samuell M'Clellan, commissioner to parliament for Edinburgh, a sum not exceeding £100 sterling, to be disbursed in the affairs of the burghs when at London. Disbursements in affairs of burghs.

31. Recommended to the committee appointed to sit after dissolving this convention "to give their assistance to the merchants in what concerns the seizures and prisage, upon the expences aluise of the merchants themselves." Committe to assist the merchants.

32. Remitted to the committee anent unfree trade to consider and determine whether Fortrose should be relieved for next year's cess and missive dues effeiring to one shilling Scots in the tax roll. Fortrose.

33. Exempted the burgh of Kirkwall for their whole bygone missive dues, and appointed the agent to assign to the burgh right to the unfree trade of Orkney and Zetland on their paying him £500 Scots, and assigning to him their share of the equivalent for behoof of the royal burghs. Kirkwall.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1709.

Inverness.

34. The conventione taking to their considerationе the petitione from the burgh of Inverness, shewing that notwithstanding the act of the conventione appointing all differences betuixt burgesses of burghs royall anent the management of their commone good and other publick concerns should be first tabled befor the conventione, yet James Porteous, Simeon M'Kenzie, William M'Lean, and others the inhabitants of the said burgh, have raised proces against the magistrats thereof befor the lords of sessione and endeavour to overturn the constitutione of the burgh and act of sett ratified and approven by the royall burrows, which has been inviolably observed ever since the year j^m^ vj^c^ seventy eight; which being considered by the conventione they fand the saids persons highly censurable for contraveening the acts of the royall burrows, but in regard they were not present they appointed the burghs of Elgin, Tain, Fortrose, Nairn and Dinguall, or any three of them, to meet at the burgh of Inverness [to hear parties and determine in the matter as they shall see cause].

Cruzers and convoyes.

35. The conventione, considering that Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, has been at great pains and trouble in giving the necessar orders to the cruzers and convoyes put under his directione by the lord high admirall of Great Brittain, and that the same has been effectuall for the security of the ships under the said cruzers and convoyes their protectione, to the safty of the trade and satisfactione of the merchants, therefore the conventione return his lordship their hearty thanks for his said care and vigilance, and declare that they will not be wanting to express their gratitude by a suteable return whenever opportunity shall offer, and in the meantime appoints the agent to pay what money his lordship shall call for frome time to time for that service, and also appoints that what money the provost of Glasgow shall give out on that account shall be repeated.

Dunbar, power to set milns and land.

36. The conventione, taking to their consideratione the petitione from the magistrats and toun counsell of the burgh of Dunbar, shewing that they are in use to set at a publick roup yearly their commone milns, with a piece of mireish ground therto belonging, and to repair the same upon the publick charge, whereas if they were alloued to get a tack of fifteen years or thereby and burden the tacksman with the reparations it would be a great ease to the said burgh, and the myrish ground would be thereby improven; and seeing they are not alloued to set a longer tack

then three years without consent of the royall burrows, craving therefor the conventione would allow the saids magistrats and counsell to set a tack of fyfteen years or theirby of the saids common milnes and myrish ground as the conventione shall think fitt; which being considered by the conventione they hereby grant warrand to the saids magistrats and counsell to set a tack of the said commone milns and myrish ground for fifteen years to the best advantage and to report the same to the next generall conventione in order to get the said conventions approbatione of the said tack. EDINBURGH. 12 July 1709. Dunbar, power to set milns and land.

37. The conventione remitted to the committe appointed to sitt after disolving of this present conventione to enquire into the illegall practices by which the trade of North Brittain is crushed, to the end those guilty may be brought to punishment, with pouer to the said committe in name of the royall burrows to address her Majestie or the parliament or both as they shall see cause. Illegal practises in trade.

38. Remitted to the committee appointed to sit after dissolving of this convention, petition by Gilbert Stewart, commissioner named in the act of committee dated 4th December last, shewing that "he upon the faith of this act and commissione went to London and addrest the parliament in name of the royall burrows and obtained ane act not only regulating the payments to the severall persons concerned therin but settling the payment of drawbacks upon a sure foundatione in time coming, the obtaining of quhich act did not only put him to a great deal of trouble and loss of time but to a very liberal expense which in reason ought effectually to be refounded." Act in favours of Gilbert Stewart.

39. The conventione anent the petitione given in be James Cuming, merchant in Edinburgh, for himself and others concerned in the ship and loading of wines aboard the Drummond of Leith, John Tait, master, complaining that Captain Blois, commander of Her Majesties ship the Shearness, and Captain Massie of the Glasgow, appointed by the lord high admirall to convoy some Virginia ships from Leith to the river of Thames, the said John Tait took the opportunity of the said convoy and received sailing orders accordingly, but the convoy left the fleet in the night tyme, without so much as acquainting them, when they were about half way in their intended voyage, and the said ship became a prey to the French privateers; and also anent the representatione made be the commissioner for the burgh of Kirkcaldie, that the ship the Ester of Kirkcaldie, whereof James Hallow, master, having taken the opportunity of the said convoy Ships taken by French privateers.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1709.

Ships taken by French privateers.

was also taken by the French, and that sometime of befor the same Shearness, Captain Blois, commander, being to convoy some ships from the road of Leith to the Theams, did leave the fleet in the voyage, whereby the Jean of Kirkcaldie, Robert Forrestdale, master, was taken by the French privateers. Which being considered by the conventione they remitted the matter above complained upon to the committe impoured to sitt after dissolving of this present conventione, to be by them in name of the royall burrows laid befor her Majestie or the parliament or both, as they shall judge meet, for geting ane effectuall redress in the said matter.

Representatione from Earle of Wemyss.

40. The convention remitted the representatione from the Earl of Wemyss to them, with the letters from severall merchants in London recomending Alexander Bain, esquire, to the burrows as a fitt persone to correspond with in matters of trade, to the committe appointed to sitt after dissolving of this present conventione.

Dunblie, Dunbar, Hadingtoun.

41-43. Appointed committees to visit the burghs of Dundee, Dunbar, and Hadingtoun, and report the particular condition thereof to next general convention.

Culross, justices of the peace.

44. The conventione, upon a memoriall from the burgh of Culross, representing some incroachments made by the justices of the peace of the shire of Pearth upon the said burgh and its priviledges, remitted the consideratione therof to the committe appointed to sitt after disolving of this present conventione, to give to the said burgh of Culross their best advice in the said affair; and farder, the conventione recommended to the severall other burghs who have any such complaints against the justices of the peace to give in their informations theranent to the burrow agent, whom the conventione appointed to consult her Majesties advocat and Sir James Stewart, senior, for their advice in the said complaints, and to transmitt copies of their said advice to the severall burrows by the directione of the said committe.

Sir David Dalrymple elected assessor.

45. The conventione, considering the great ability of Sir David Dalrymple of Hales, her Majesties advocat, to serve the royall burrows, and that on all occasions he has appeared for their intrest, did therfor appoint him to be their assessor during the conventions pleasure and alloued to him five hundred merks of yearly sallary and appointed the agent to pay the same accordingly.

EDINBURGH. 12 July 1709.

46. On petition by Newgallaway, the convention appointed their agent to pay that burgh £100 Scots of supply on their paying bygone missive dues; and appointed the burghs of Dumfreis, Wigton, and Annan to endeavour to compose the differences betwixt the burgh of Kirkcudbright and John Chalmers, bailie of Newgallaway. Newgallaway.

Act for componing of differences.

47. The conventione, taking to their consideratione their act appointing all differences that may arise between any of the inhabitants of the royall burrows anent the management of their commone good and other publick concerns to be first tabled befor the royall burrows, therefore they remitt to the committe formerly appointed for the unfree trade to sitt after disolving of this present conventione, to hear all complaints that may be made to them from any of the inhabitants of the royall burrows anent their publick concerns, with pouer to them to determine therin as they shall see cause; and also remitted to the consideratione of the said committe all matters relating to the staple port, with pouer to them to determine therin as they shall think fitt.

Address to exchequer.

48. Appointed the burghs of Edinburgh, Stirling and Selkirk, "to present their address to the barrons of exchequer."

Col. Erskin's overtures.

49. Appointed the committee anent unfree trade "to receive from Colonel John Erskin of Carnock what overtures he has to make anent the trade of the salt and fishing, to be laid befor parliament."

Road to coall heugh of Touch.

50. The conventione, anent the petitione gevin in be the burghs of Dumfermling and Inverkeithing, complaining that John Stenhouse of Southfood had taken upon him to stop ane commone high road leading to and from the saids burghs and the coall heugh of Touch, to the great prejudice of the coall trade, notwithstanding the said burghs had been in the possessione of the said road past memory of man, which being considered be the conventione they appointed the commissioners for the burghs of Stirling and Queensferry to enquire into the matters of fact above represented and to lay the same before the committe appointed to sitt after disolving of this present conventione who are hereby impoured to doe therin as they shall think fitt.

Irving, schoolmaster.

51. The conventione upon ane petitione from the magistrats and toun counsell of the burgh of Irving against their late master of their grammar school, shewing that notwithstanding the saids magistrats and counsell did discharge the said schoolmaster for none attendance, whereby

Edinburgh, 12 July 1709.

Irving, schoolmaster.

their schell was intierly broke, and did choise another in his place, yet the said former schoolmaster did still continue in his place and had suspended the act of counsell depriving him of his office, which being considered by the conventione they appoint [a committe to concur with the magistrates in the said matter.]

Prestongranges overtures, Buchan, Home.

52-54. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade consideration of (52) "any overtures that may be given in be William Morisone of Prestongrange for advancing the trade of this part of Great Brittain;" (53) "any memoriall that shall be given in by Mr John Buchan, advocate and late agent to the royall burrows, anent the unfree traders," and (54) "petition given in be John Home, servitor to Sir Robert Forbes, advocate;" and "appointed the said John Home to lay befor the said committee the state of the several processes intented by him befor the admirall court against the unfree traders."

Act appointing the agent to prosecute unfree traders.

55. The conventione, considering that severall methods hath been hitherto taken for obtaining relief from the unfree traders of their proportione of the taxt roll and that the same has not been effectuall, and it being proposed that the following essay and triall may be made, to witt, that the burrow agent shall with the first conveniency and as he is able to overtake it repare to the severall shires of this kingdome, Orkney and Zetland excepted, and there take informatione of the unfree traders within their respective bounds and conveen them at such royall burghs within the same as shall be thought fitt by the commity for the unfree trade, and to acquaint such of the representatives of the royall burrows as the said committe shall appoint to meet within the saids severall districts, by whose advice and directione the said agent may transact and agree with these unfree traders for all bygones and till the next generall conventione; which proposall the conventione approved and authorised and appointed to be put to due executione, and referred to the said committe to give such further orders and instructions to the said agent, and appointed summonds to be sent to the saids unfree traders with the letters appointing them to meet in their respective districts, that in case they do not so agree for the communicatione of trade they may be proceeded against by the said agent with the utmost dilligence.

Whithern.

56. On petition from the burgh of Whithorn, showing the ruinous condition of their tolbooth and harbour, the convention allowed the burgh £100 Scots for their reparation.

57. Appointed the agent to pay certain sallaries and gratuities. EDINBURGH. 12 July 1709.
58. Dissolved the present meeting and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1710. Salaries and gratuities. Act of adjournment.

SETT *of the* BURGH *of* TAIN, *appointed to be recorded by the 9th act of the preceding General Convention.*

AT TAIN the eighteenth day of August j^{m} vij^{c} and eight years. In obedience to [the 21 act of the general convention of burghs, held in July 1708, compeared the commissioners of Inverness, Elgin, Forras, Dingwall and Fortrose,] and wee having considered the counsell books of the said burgh of Taine farr above fourty years backward, we find (notwithstanding some of their books produced be defective in severall particulars) yet that the number of their counsell, including provost, baillies, dean of gild and theasurer, did not exceed fifteenth, and some years thirteenth, till Michalmass one thousand seven hundred and six years, att which time the laird of Balnagowine was made provost, the number was augmented to seventeenth, which is tuo more than their ordinar number and old constitutione; and at Michalmass j^{m} vij^{c} and seven, having mett upon the tuenty ninth day of September, they continued the seventeenth of the former years electione, and upon the ninth day of October thereafter they added six more to their counsell, viz., William Lord Ross, William Lord Strathnaver and John Lord M'Leod, William Ross and John Mansone, merchants, and Charles Ross, wigmaker in Taine, as new counsellers; and on the fourth day of June last j^{m} vij^{c} and eight years instant, the laird of Balnagowine provost having conveened a quorum of the counsell of the said burgh, did motione therein that in respect and by the deceas of John Ross, late provost, and Alexander Ross, baillie, being on death bedd, and the honourable Lord Ross is living at such a distance that he could not attend the said counsell, therefor craved that the counsell should nominat other three counsellers to officiat, and accordingly they did proceed and elect William Ross of Easterfearne, William Ross of Aldie and Thomas Ross, junior, merchant in Taine, to exerce in that statione as counsellors; which with the former number makes tuenty-six counsellors, including the magistrats. It is unanimously the oppinione of us, the members of the committe, that the electione at Michalmass j^{m} vij^{c} and six and

Sett of the burgh of Tain. 18 August 1708.

EDINBURGH. July 1709.

Sett of the burgh of Tain. 18 August 1709.

at Michalmass j^m^ vij^c^ and seven, and the additione of counsellers the ninth of October j^m^ vij^c^ and seven and the fourth of June j^m^ vij^c^ and eight are palpable incronchments upon the constitutione of the said burgh of Tain and contrare to the setts of other well governed burghs; and for remeed thereof we recomend to the magistrats and counsell of Tain in time coming that they do not exceed the number of fifteenth counsellers, including the provost, baillies, dean of gild and tresaurer, and that they be all men qualified conforme to the acts and constitutione of burrows, viz., that they be merchants, traffeckers, actuall residenters, tradsmen, inhabitants, or such persons as can gain or lose in the concerns of the burgh, and that for hereafter their provost not continue above three years, being yearly chosen be the toun counsell, and that their baillies, dean of gild and tresaurer, continue not above tuo years, being yearly chosen as said is, and that they turn off yearly at Michalmass four of their old counsell, and in place of them to chose four new counsellers, and the new counsell so chosen to elect the magistrats out of the said number of fifteenth. And this we give as our report in obedience to the said act and commissione, and we publickly intimat the same to the magistrats, counsell, and inhabitants of the said burgh of Tain.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE *appointed by the 18th act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 14 July 1709. Sederunt.

14 July 1709.

Edinburgh, George Warrender; Air, Robert Moore; Tain, William Ross; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Renfrew, John Cochran. [Eleven burghs *blank*.]

Preses.

1. Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Article anent supply delayed.

2. Delayed consideration of the 16th act of last general convention till the return of Sir Robert Forbes from London.

Unfree traders to be transacted with.

3. Appointed the unfree traders within the different shires to be transacted with at sight of the several commissioners named in this act.

15 July 1709.

Unfree traders to be pursued and transacted with.

4. Appointed the unfree traders to be pursued and transacted with at the times and in the manner mentioned in this act.

18 July 1709. EDINBURGH. 18 July 1709.

5. Remitted petition by the burgh of Dumfries to the committee appointed to advise the transacting with unfree traders in the shire. Dumfries.

6. The commissioner for Dumbartoun gave in ane draught of a letter conforme to the appointment of the committe at their last meeting which was read and approven and appointed to be recorded and printed and signed be the preses of the committe, the tennor whereof folloues :— Letter to the unfree traders.

Gentlemen. The royall burrows have used all the tenderness in their pouer touards the unfree traders, till at length the burding upon them is become so heavy and unsupportable that they cannot any longer delay the seeking of ane relieff, and therfor have ordered Mr George Smollet, advocat, their agent, to prosecut the unfree traders in the terms of law and to give them all citations for that effect, but in the meantime as a farder proof of the royall burrows aversione to put you to unnecessar trouble and expences, and to prevent these extremities which the result of a legall proces will certainly produce against the unfree traders, they have impouered their said agent to agree with you even at your own doors, at the sight and advice of such of the adjacent royall burrows as he will advertise you, and it is now expected that you will not slight this last opportunity of saving yourselves but will embrace the occasione of observing what shall be desired, and the royall burrows hope that when they are so happy as to be incorporat together you shall find the good effects. This at command and in name of the committe of the royall burrows is signified by, etc. *Sic subscribitur :* PATRICK JOHNSTON.

7. Delayed consideration of John Buchan's petition till the return of Sir Robert Forbes from London. John Buchan's petition.

8. The committe having considered the tuenty sixth act of the last generall conventione remitted to them for giving instructions to the agent, they fand that nothing for the time has emerged whereanent it appeared needfull to instruct him except anent the prosecutione of the unfree traders, wherein they have given him full instructions mentioned in their sederunts the fourteenth and fifteenth instant, and the committe are to direct him in what further may occur at their after meetings as they shall see cause. Instructions to agent.

EDINBURGH. 18 July 1709.

9. Delayed the gratifying of John Home, servitor to Sir Robert Forbes, till the accounts of the latter are cleared.

John Home's gratification. Merchants.

10. There being no applications from merchants under the 31st act of last convention, the committee declared they would consider these applications when given in to them.

Fortrose.

11. Delayed consideration of the easing of Montrose in the tax roll till the accounts of Sir Robert Forbes are cleared.

Anent illegall practices.

12. The committee having no information regarding the 37th act of last general convention, recommended the several members to take all information they can get and lay the same before the committee.

Anent drawbacks, etc.

13. Anent the 38th act of last convention, the committee remitted to five of their number "to adjust the calcul both of the fish, flesh, and salt, and to report."

Mr Bain.

14. Anent the 40th act of last convention, the committee "are of oppinion Mr Bain is a fitt person to correspond with in matters of trade, being recomended by the Earle of Wemyss and severall merchants for that end."

Incroachments of justices, etc.

15. The committee are of opinion that Sir David Dalrymple, her Majesty's advocate, and Sir James Stewart, senior, late lord advocate, should be consulted regarding the encroachments of justices of the peace, remitted by the 44th act of last convention. As to the 47th, 49th, and 50th acts of the last convention, "there being no applicatione as yet made to them, declared they would consider these applications when given in."

Jedburgh.

16. Delayed consideration of petition by the burgh of Jedburgh till the accounts of Sir Robert Forbes are cleared.

Decreet of parliament as to unfree traders.

17. The clerks delivered to George Smollet, agent, "the nottoriall attested double of the decreet of the commissione of parliament, at the instance of Mr John Buchan, advocat, late agent to the royall burghs, against the unfree traders, dated the thirty day of March j^{m} vj^{c} and ninty-nine years."

26 January 1710.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Warrender; Aberden, Mr William Black; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Renfrew, Mr John Cochran.

Preses.

1. George Warrender, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Toun of Kelsoe.

2. The agent having reported to the committe that he had insisted against the toun of Kelsoe in ane suspensione raised at their instance against the royall burrows, and at the last calling before my Lord Bowhill his lordship recomended that affair to be accomodat betuixt the parties in ane friendly manner and did offer his good services therein, the

committe resolved that some of their number should go along with the agent to wait upon his lordship and know when he would meet to end that affair with the toun of Kelsoe. EDINBURGH. 26 January 1710.

2 February 1710.

Edinburgh, George Warrender ; Linlithgow, Alexander Glen ; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet ; Aberdeen, Mr William Black ; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnston ; Renfrew, Mr William Cochran. Sederunt

1. George Warrender, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses. Preses.

2. The dean of gild of Edinburgh communicat to the committe a letter from Sir Patrick Johnston, lord provost of Edinburgh, informing that there was now a designe to constitut the Royall Affrican Company with exclusive priviledges, which probably would be prejudiciall to North Britain, and that the toun counsell of Edinburgh had ordered some of their number to consult Sir James Steuart, senior, in relatione to ane address against the same, therefore the said dean of gild desired to know how far it was the intrest of the royall burrows to concurr in the said address, which being considered by the committe they appointed a letter of thanks to be write to Sir Patrick Johnston for his care in the burrows affaires and declared their resolutione to address the parliament in relatione to the said affair. Affrican company.

4 February 1710.

Edinburgh, George Warrender; Aberdeen, Mr William Black; Linlithgow, Alexander Glen; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Annan, Mr William Johnston ; Renfrew, Mr William Cochran. Sederunt.

1. The committe having met with resolutione to address the parliament, conforme to the minuts the second of February instant, unanimously agreed to the following address which they appointed to be signed by George Warrender, present dean of gild of Edinburgh, their preses, in their name, and to be transmitted to the parliament of Great Britain, of which the tennor followes :—To the honourable the knights, citizens and burgesses, the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled : The humble petitione of the committe of the royall burrows, appointed by the wholl royall burrows of North Britain to inspect matters relating to the Address to the parliament.

Burrowmuir. 4 February 1710.

Address to the parliament.

trade of that part of the kingdome, sheweth :—That your petitioners, understanding the Royall Affrican Company are endeavouring to obtain ane act granting them ane exclusive trade, pretending the same cannot be managed to any advantage but by ane joint company stock exclusive of others, whereby your petitioners judge themselves in duty bound to represent that the said exclusive trade if granted will be universally prejudiciall to the subjects of the United Kingdome, so in ane particular manner to your petitioners who will thereby be debarred of any direct exportatione of their linnen or their other manufactories fitt for the consumptione of these countries, and to which they are clearly intituled by the first and tuenty one articles of Union, whereby it is agreed that after the first of May j^m vij^c and seven all the subjects of the United Kingdome of Great Britain shall have full freedome and intercourse of trade and negotiatione to and from any port or place within the said United Kingdome and dominions and plantations thereto belonging ; and therefor your petitioners humbly crave your honours may seriously consider the matter and do therein as in your wisdome you think most expedient for the joint interest of the United Kingdome.

28 February 1710.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Warrender ; Dunbar, William Faa ; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet ; Renfrew, Mr William Cochran ; Lauder, Robert Henderson ; Aberdeen, Mr William Black ; Crail, Henry Crawfurd ; Dundie, George Yeaman.

Preses.

1. George Warrender, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Address anent 50 sols.

2. The committe were of opinione that there be ane address drawn up and presented to Her Majestie, craving that in the treaty of peace speciall regard may be had to the trade of carying of herring and salmond to France, and that the royall burrows may be free of the fifty souz imposed upon the tun as formerly, and that the address be founded upon the ancient rights and priviledges of the burrows, and that Sir James Stewart, senior, advocat, be consulted in drawing the said address, and how the samen shall be prosecut, and for that effect that the ancient contracts betuixt France and Scotland, with Mr Aikmans negotiatione and what has been done thereupon since that time, be laid before Sir James Steuart.

4 March 1710.

EDINBURGH. 4 March 1710.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Warrender; Dundie, George Yeaman; Aberden, Mr William Black; Dunbar, William Faa; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Renfrew, Mr William Cochran; Craill, Henry Crawfurd; Lauder, Robert Henderson.

Preses.

1. George Warrender, dean of guild of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Address and memoriall agreed to.

2. The committe unanimously agreed to the following address and memoriall, and appointed the same to be signed by their preses, in their name, and to be transmitted to her Majestie, of which the tennors follow:

Address to her Majesty.

—To the Queens most Excellent Majestie. The most humble address of the royall burrows of Scotland now North Britain. For as much as it hath pleased God so to prosper the just arms of your Majestie and your allies as to bring about a treaty of peace, whereby this long destroying war may be happily ended, we your Majesties most loyal and faithfull subjects take leave in all humility to represent that the royall burrows having the sole priviledge and manadgement of forreign trade, and bearing no less then the sixth part of all publick burdens within North Britain, haue ever had the most gracious protectione of your Majestie and all your royall ancestours, with the speciall favour of the many and great encouragements which they haue hitherto constantly injoyed, and therefore do presume to lay before your Majestie the memoriall herewith offered of our rights and liberties, that haue been of late either wholly refused us or incroached upon by the French King in the matters of our trade, to the great prejudice of us and your Majesties other good subjects; wherefore we do in all humility intreat that it may graciously please your Majestie to give such particular instructions to your plenipotentiaries, or others to be commissioned by your Majestie to the said treaty, as may procure us the just redress of the hardships that we visibly suffer, in such way and manner as your Majestie shall judge reasonable. In the name and at the appointment of the committe of the royall burrows, signed by George Warrender, present dean of gild of Edinburgh, their preses, at Edinburgh, 4th day of March 1710 years. *Sic subscribitur:* GEO. WARRENDER, *Preses.*

Memoriall for the rights and priviledges of the royall burrows.

Memoriall for the rights and liberties of the royall burrows of Scotland, now North Britain, which have been of late either unjustly refused or incroached upon by the French King, humbly offered to her Majestie

EDINBURGH. 4 March 1710.

Memoriall for the rights and priviledges of the royall burrows

in order to a redress in the treaty of peace. First. After ane old alliance and mutuall correspondence for severall ages betuixt the French and the Scots, in the year 1558 all Scots men were naturalised in France and all French men were naturalised in Scotland, as the acts of naturalizatione recorded in the acts of the parliament of Scotland the said year doe testifie. By virtue of which acts the Scots enjoyed all the rights and priviledges of French men in France and particularly were freed from the *droit de aubaigne*, whereby the goods of all others dieing in France do fall unto the King; as also of all impositiones imposed upon strangers, and especially the impositione of fifty sols per tunn imposed upon forreign ships; which the Scots enjoyed untill the year 1663; and therefore it is humbly craved that their right and priviledge specially as to these two particulars may be restored.

Secondly. Since the late warrs with France there hath been ane expreas prohibitione made there against the import of all herrings and other white fish from Scotland, or at least such impositions laid upon them as amount to a prohibitione, and herring and white fish being as it were the naturall product and richest commodity of Brittain, especially of Scotland, the import thereof according to the law of nations ought to be alloued as the same was indeed alloued before the late warr.

Thirdly. Since the late warrs the French King hath laid ane additional impositione upon salmond imported, which impositione is almost equall to a prohibitione and much prejudges that branch of trade.

Fourthly. The French King hath of late prohibit the importatione of all our wool manufacture, such as cloaths, fingrams, stockings, kerses, &c., which were formerly and before the warr freely imported into France from Scotland.

Fifthly. The French King hath raised impositiones upon coalls, butter, tallow, tanned leather, peuther, leed, beef, candles, suggars, and other goods, to that height that either amounts to a prohibition or at least hinders the equality of fair trading, contrary to the just freedome of commerce amongst nations, and for which it's humbly craved that a reasonable tarriff may be for hereafter established.

These particulars are humbly offered to her Majesties consideratione, and they will also lead to severall other articles that at this time ought to be farder cleared for a just regulation of trade, specially in this sea-

sone that appears to be so oppertune for obtaining a fair setlement in all these matters which may certainly tend to the great relief and advantage not only of the royall burrows of North Britain but to all her Majesties good subjects of Great Britain now so happily united by the late union in the same common interest.

EDINBURGH. 4 March 1710.

Memoriall for the rights and priviledges of the royall burrows.

GENERAL CONVENTION, *held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 4 July 1710.

Sederunt.

Edinburgh, George Warrender, and Mr Alexander Nisbet; Perth, Robert Robertson; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, John Allerdes; Stirling, John Ærskin; Linlithgow, Alexander Glen; St Andrews, Alexander Watson; Glasgow, John Aird; Air, Robert Moore; Hadington, Richard Miller; Disart, John Mortimer; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; Montrose, James Scott; Coupar, Mr Thomas Hope; Anstruther Easter, George Scott; Dumfries, John Corsbie; Inverness, Alexander Duff; Burntisland, Alexander Burnet; Innerkeithing, Alexander Henderson; Kinghorn, Robert Bruce; Brechin, John Doig; Irving, George Monroe; Jedburgh, Robert Rutherfurd; Kirkudbright, Samuell Euart; Pittenueem, William Borthwick; Dunfermling, David Wilson; Anstruther Wester, John Cunningham; Selkirk, Andrew Wauch; Dumbarton, Sir James Smollet; Renfrew, Mr John Cochran; Dunbar, William Faa; Lanerk, William Inglis; Aberbrothock, John Hutcheson; Elgin, William Duff; Peebles, John Frier; Craill, Henry Crawfurd; Culrose, George Wilson; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Whithern, John M'Gouan; Forfar, Charles Dickson; Forras, Robert Dunbar; Ruthglen, John Moor; Northberwick, James Miller; Cullen, Mr John Philp; Lauder, George Lauder; Kilrenny, James Peacock; Annan, Mr William Johnston; Lochmaben, Mr John Henderson; Newgallaway, William M'Courty; Dinguall, Kenneth Bayn; Queensferry, James Dalgleish; Fortrose, William Tolme; Kintoir, Robert Bruce; Inverurie, John Ferguson; Week, James Murray; Kirkuall, David Traill; Inverbervie, Alexander Arbuthnet; Stranraer, Andrew M'Credie; Campbeltoun, Robert M'Colme. (Seven burghs *blank*.)

4 July 1710.

1. Adam Broun, one of the bailies of Edinburgh, elected preses. Members who had not previously qualified took the oath of allegiance and abjuration and subscribed the same with the assurance.

Preses, members qualified.

2. Appointed a committee to revise the whole commissions.

Revising commissions.

3. Approved of the whole commissions.

Commissions approven.

Edinburgh. 5 July 1710.

5 July 1710.

Committe for considering missive. Heads of missive continued.

4. Appointed a committee to consider the heads of the general missive.

5. Upon report of the committe to whom the consideration of the present generall missive was remitted, the conventione appointed the following articles of the present missive to be continued as heads and articles of the next general missive, viz., the first article anent the platforme; the second, anent the burgh of Edinburgh their diligence in stoping of gifts and signatures for monopolies when presented to the exchequer; the third, anent the setting of a piece of barron ground belonging to the burgh of Irving; the fifth, recommending to the respective royall burrows to erect manufactories within their severall burghs for imploying of poor and idle persons in the terms of the act of parliament made thereanent; the sixth article, anent misapplying of mortifications within burgh; the seventh, anent idle and vagrant persons living within burgh; the eight, appointing each burgh to send up their setts to the clerks of the burrows, and farder ordaining such burghs who have not setts of their own to agree upon ane sett for regulating of their elections in time coming to be laid before their next conventione for their approbatione; the thirten article, anent the conventions taking to consideratione the reports in favours of the severall burghs when the taxt roll comes to be altered; the fourten, anent the platforme of the commissions to parliament and conventions; the sixten, anent the difference betuixt Sir Robert Forbes and Mr John Buchan; the eighten article, anent the burgh of Dunbars tack of their commone milns.

Agents accompts. Diligence against unfree traders.

6. Appointed a committee to consider the agent's accounts.

7. Approved of the proceedings of the committee appointed to consider the affair of unfree traders and take care of the trade of the nation, and remitted to the committee to make inquiry into the agent's diligence against unfree traders and to report.

6 July 1710.

Clerks to be admitted members of conventione.

8. The conventione, considering that clerks of royall borrows and other clerks have been debarred in former times from representing burrows in generall and particular conventions, yet found there was no reasone why they may not be admitted as members of the said conven-

tions if duly qualified in the terms of the formula which derogats from former acts and practise. EDINBURGH. 6 July 1710.

Against granting certificates to unfree traders.

9. The conventione, taking to their serious consideratione that notwithstanding of the great care which has been taken by their committe appointed anent the unfree trade, and of the dilligence, travell, and expences which was necessar for puting these acts in executione, yet it has happened through mistake that some of their number has granted certificats in favours of severall unfree traders in their vicinity and neighbourhead declaring them to be burgesses within their respective burghs and that they bear burden with them, which certificats are improven, to the manifest prejudice of the royall burrows, and thereby endeavours to make their designe of prosecuting these unfree traders altogether elusory; for preventing whereof in time coming, it is expressly statut and ordained if any burgh royall for hereafter shall grant any such certificats in favours of any merchant or trader who doe not actually dwell and reside in their burghs, or shall any other way concurr with or collour the said unfree traders, that then and in that case the said burgh royall shall be proceeded against with all rigor and severity, and the laws and acts made against collouring of unfree trade put to full executione; likeas, their burgh are and shall be declared lyable in all the proportion of stent which these unfree traders might have been decerned to pay according to the laws and acts of parliament made against them; and for hereafter discharges any burgh to burden these persons living without burgh with any part of their stent. And ordanis thir presents to be printed and each member to have a coppy thereof to his burgh to be recorded in the counsell books.

Anstruther Wester.

10. On a petition by Anstruther Wester "complaining that they were distressed at the instance of the representatives of Mr Taillor, sometime their minister, for paymentt of a debt, albeit the same might be extinguished by the said Mr Taillor his intromissions with the burghs revinue if they were in a conditione to defend themselves therein," the convention remitted to a committe to endeavour an accommodation between the parties.

Innerkeithing and Dumfermling, road to coall heughs.

11. The conventione, anent the petitione given in for the burghs of Innerkeithing and Dumfermling, shewing that the said burgh of Innerkeithing had been in use to cary and transpor tcoalls from the coall heughs of Dumfermling and other adjacent places through the ground of John

Edinburgh, 6 July 1702.

Innerkeithing and Dumfermling, road to scall haughs.

Stenhouse of Southfodd, and upon their being interrupted be him in their possession and use of the said high wayes they raised a declarator at their instance against him before the lords of session and represented the matter to the generall conventione in July last, who recomended the case to some of the neighbouring burrows in order to ane accomodatione, whereupon Southfodd was so far convinced of the reasonableness of the petitioners demands that he did some time thereafter grant a consent subscribed with his hand obligeing himself never to stop or mollest the petitioners in the use of the saids roads under the penalty of five hundred merks attour performance, which consent was by both parties depositat in the hands of John Hendersone in Fordergreen till a discharge of the process intented by the petitioners were subscribed by the haill toun counsell which they are still ready to grant, and the very next day Southfodds wife snatched out of the hands of the depositor the said subscribed consent and tore the same, though the substance of the writ remains intire but wanting Southfodds subscriptione; craving therefor the conventione would recomend to their agent to concur with the petitioners in raising and prosecuting a proving of the tennor of the writ so deposited and terms of depositatione, or such other process against Southfodd as may secure them in the peaceable possession of the saids roads, as the petitione bears. Which being considered be the conventione, they recomended to the commissioners for the burghs of Stirling and Culross, with all convenient dilligence, to endeavour ane accomodatione betuixt the petitioners and Southfodd, and to signifie to him in name of the convention that unless he secure the petitioners of the possession of the roads abovementioned, the conventione would grant warrand to their agent to concur with the burgh of Innerkeithing not only in declaring their right to the saids roads before the lords of sessione and proving of the tennor of the forsaid consent but also in pursueing a riot for unuarrantable lacerating thereof; and ordained the saids commissioners to report their dilligence to the next generall conventione.

7 July 1710.

Agent, prosecution of unfree traders.

12. The convention found that Mr George Smollet, advocate, agent of the burghs, had exactly obeyed the instructions given to him by the committee in relation to the prosecution of unfree traders, and allowed to him for his "expence

in making the circuit conform to these orders" £800 Scots, with £1000 Scots for his trouble. EDINBURGH. 7 July 1710.

13. Appointed the agent to pay to Gavin Plummer, deputy receiver of her Majestys cess, £946, 3s. 7½d., being cess and annual rents for unfree traders in March last and previously, conform to the 16th act of last general convention, with £60 sterling "as ane gratificatione to him for preventing quartering." Cess for unfree traders, Plummer.

14. There being petitions from several burghs for supplies, the convention "appointed their preses to mark and dock these petitions to be considered be the conventione how soon they shall be in a conditione to supply these burghs." Petitions from burghs for supplies.

15. On a petition from the burgh of Elgin, "shewing that there were severall incroachments made upon the priviledges of the said burgh by the sherriff of the shire," the convention remitted to a committee to endeavour to compose the differences. Burgh of Elgin and sheriff of the shire.

10 July 1710.

16. Ordained the agent to take proceedings against burghs for enforcing payment of their missive dues. Missive dues.

17. Remitted to the committee on unfree trade petition by the burgh of Jedburgh as to the process raised at Blackhill's instance against them. Jedburgh.

18. For "severall weighty reasons and considerations," the convention continued the tax roll as it now stands till July next. Taxt roll continued.

19. The conventione considering that all methods formerly used to procure relief of the ten pounds of the hundred pounds of the taxt roll of the royall burrows appointed by act of parliament to be proportioned amongst the burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders for the communicatione of trade hath hitherto been ineffectuall, and that notwithstanding by the present taxt roll of the royall burrows there is ninty four pounds of the said hundred pounds proportioned amongst the said royall burrows, yet the agreements hitherto made with the burghs of barrony and regality and other unfree traders does not relieve them of the other six pounds of the said hundred pounds of the taxt roll, and that they have been necessitat to pay annual rents and to give gratifications to procure delayes of quartering for the deficiency of the said six pounds, to the great detriment of the royall burrows; for preventing whereof in time coming the conventione doe appoint four pounds of the said six pounds to be proportioned amongst the wholl royall burrows conforme to the present taxt roll. [The roll of apportionment is here inserted.] Apportionment of cess on £4 of the tax roll.

EDINBURGH. 10 July 1710

Balance due by agent.

20. The convention found from the agent's accounts that there was due by him a balance of £1781, 2s. Scots, which ought to be charged in his accounts for 1709-10.

Agents accompts.

21. Approved of the agent's accounts of his intromissions with the missive dues and money received from unfree traders from July 1709 to July 1710. The charge, including £17,000 of missive dues, and the previous year's balance, amounted to £19,198, 3s. 8d., and the discharge (including £10,080 of cess), to £20,315, 1s. 2d., leaving due to the agent £1,116, 17s. 6d. Scots. The following items are contained in the accounts :—

Item, to the clerks for bringing up the compend,	£240	0	0
Item, for paper added to the abridgment and rebinding,	3	0	0
Item, to the gardner for floures,	11	12	0
Item, to the late lord advocat when consulted on address and memoriall,	51	12	0
Item, for writing tuo addresses and memoriall,	9	0	0
Item, to Captain Brouns going in expedition in quest of Dalzell,	34	0	0
Item, tavern bills,	40	0	0
Item, expenses for the agents circuit through the kingdome anent the unfree traders,	800	0	0
Item, to the agent of gratuity for his pains in the said matter,	1000	0	0
Item, ane bill spent be the committe in Stephen Cuthills, November 1708,	22	1	0
Item, another bill spent in Andrew Tennents,	43	19	8

Agent to procure discharges.

22. Appointed the agent to procure discharges by the general receiver for the sums included in the foregoing accounts within twenty-four hours after dissolving this convention, and to enforce immediate payment of all missive dues.

Committee appointed.

23. Appointed a committee to transact and agree with unfree traders, and to consider all affairs relating to the staple port, debates within burghs relating to management of their common good, elections of magistrates, council, and deacons of crafts, management of their revenues, and anent their privileges and encroachments and other public concerns of the several burghs, with power to address her Majesty and the parliament in name of the whole royal burghs if they shall see cause.

St Andrews.

24. Having heard report by the committee to whom petition by the burgh of St Andrews was remitted, the committee found "the case and conditione of the herbour of St Andrews required present supply to prevent the ruine and lose thereof," and therefore the conventione allowed the sum of £400 Scots to be employed in making up the breaches upon the harbour.

Kirkaldie.

25. Authorised the burgh of Kirkcaldie to set the lands of Murehouses and others in tack for nineteen in place of three years as formerly.

Linnen yeard, Ireland, customs.

26. Remitted to the committee appointed by the 23rd act "ane complaint made be the commissioner for Glasgow that great quantities of linnen yearn was

exported from Scotland to Ireland and broun linnen imported thence to Scotland without payment of customes." EDINBURGH. 10 July 1710.

27. Appointed the commissioners of Edinburgh, Dundie, Stirling, Dumbarton, Bamf, and Annan, "to wait upon George Baillie of Jeriswood, one of the commissioners of the counsell of trade of Great Britain, and to thank him in name of the conventione for his kind offer to serve the burrows in what concerns their trade." George Baillie of Jeriswood.

28. Appointed the decreet arbitral by the committee appointed to adjust the differences between the magistrates and trades of Inverness to be recorded amongst other sets of the burghs. Inverness.

29. Anent the petition by Sir Andrew Kennedy of Cloburn against Robert Panton, factor in Campvere, the convention found that the latter ought to pay the former conservator's dues for goods consigned prior to 9th December 1707, but refused to determine as to subsequent dues while the process is depending between Sir Andrew Kennedy and Sir Alexander Cumming. Kennedy against Panton.

30. Anent representations as to elections in Queensferry, the convention ordained the present magistrates and council to continue in office till Michaelmas next, and remitted to the committee appointed to sit after the dissolving of this convention "to make a sett to be the rule of electione of the magistrats and counsell of the said burgh in time coming." Queensferry.

31, 32. Remitted to the committee (1) the auditing of the accounts of Sir Robert Forbes, late agent, with petition of John Home, his servant; and (2) petition by the burgh of Wick. Sir Robert Forbes, Wick.

33. Anent petition by the burgh of Couper, the convention recommended the commissioners of that burgh to use diligence in bringing in unfree traders in the district, and the burgh will be considered at alteration of the tax roll. Couper.

34, 35. Granted warrant to the burghs of Dumbarton and Lochmaben "to set ane tack of the muirish ground belonging to them," Dumbarton for ninteen and Lochmaben for nine years. Dumbarton, Lochmaben.

36. Appointed the agents to pay certain salaries and gratuities to the clerks, agent, macers, officers, and others. Sellaries and gratuities.

37. Dissolved the present meeting, and appointed next general convention to be held at Edinburgh in July 1711. Act of dissolution.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE, *appointed by the 23rd act of last General Convention, held at* EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH. 11 July 1710.

11 July 1710.

Edinburgh, George Warrender; Perth, Robert Robertson; Dundie, Alexander Blair; Aberdeen, John Alerdes; Stirling, John Erskine; Linlithgow, Sederunt.

Burrowes. 11 July 1710.

Alexander Glen; St Andrews, Alexander Watson; Glasgow, John Aird; **Air, Robert Moore**; Hadingtoun, Richard Miller; Kirkaldie, James Osuald; **Montrose, James Scott**; Dumfries, John Corsbie; Inverness, Alexander Duff; **Irving, George Monro**; Jedburgh, Robert Rutherfurd; Dumbartan, Sir James **Smollet**; **Renfrew**, Mr John Cochran; Dunbar, William Faa; Craill, Henry **Crawfurd**; **Bamf**, Sir Alexander Ogilvie; Lauder, George Lauder; **Annan, Mr William Johnston**.

Preses.

1. **Adam Brown**, one of the bailies of Edinburgh, elected preses.

Unfree trade in presbytery of Garioch.

2. **John Ferguson** of Stenhouse, bailie of Inverurie, offered to take twelve pennies Scots of the tax roll, on the committee assigning to him the bygone unfree trade within the presbytery of Garioch (old Meldrum only excepted), which being considered, the committee recommended him to endeavour to bring the unfree traders to an accommodation with the agent.

Customs, tables of fees and dues.

3. For enabling them to adjust a table of dues, the committee appointed the maritime burghs to send to the agent an authentic account of the fees and dues exacted by the officers of the customs from the merchants.

14 July 1710.

Accompts of Sir Robert Forbes.

4. Before auditing the accounts of Sir Robert Forbes, late agent, the committee directed the agent to obtain information as to money paid by unfree traders.

17 July 1710.

Sett for the burgh of Queensferry.

5. [In terms of the 30th act of last general convention, the committee] decerned and ordained the following sett to be the only rule of the electione of the magistrats and counsell of the said burgh of Queensferry from and after the terme of Michalmass next, of which sett the tennor followes:— Imprimis, that the old custome of the burgh in the matter of electione of their magistrats and counsell be inviolably observed as to the number of electors, whereof eighten counsellers and fourten burgesses, tuo or three of the deacons being of that number. Item, that the quality of the electors be that the tuo part thereof be seamen and the third part landmen, burgesses, inhabitants, bearing scott and lott. Item, that the magistrats and counsell to be elected consist of the same species. Item, that the stent-masters, whereof six are ordinarly the number, consist of four seamen and tuo landmen, of which number there shall be ane old magistrat if he can be had in the burgh, and the said stent-masters shall be chosen by the counsell. Item, that all the saids persons be suorn at

the time of their elections to be faithfull in their severall offices. Item, that in time coming one of the foresaids baillies who are seamen shall be obliged to attend their post during that year wherein they are elected. Item, that for preserving the policy of the burgh in case so many seamen shall not be found in the burgh as will make up the tuo thirds of the electors, in that case and no otheruise landmen may be elected to supply their place. Item, that no new burgesses shall be assumed within the said burgh untill Michalmass, that the election may proceed at that time of the burgesses and inhabitants now belonging to the place. Item, that upon Tuesday preceeding Michalmass, being the tuenty sixth day of September next, the electione expresly conforme to the conditions abovewritten shall proceed by the pole of the burgesses, and in all time thereafter the elections are to be according to the former old custome of elections. Item, that tuo or three of the deacons of crafts must be aluise [tuo or] three of the forsaid electors of magistrats and counsell, and shall be tuo or three of the counsell, over and above the forsaid eighten counsellers, and so making up in haill tuenty or tuenty one counsellers. Item, in case of the absence of any of the tuenty or tuenty one counsellers at the electione, the magistrats and counsell present shall fill up the vaccant places with inhabiting trading burgesses to make up the quantity and quality of the counsell, viz., tuo parts seamen and one part landmen of the eighten counsellers, besides the tuo or three deacons of incorporations; and in case any warned to be of the number of the fourten assumed to the counsell to make up the number of thirty tuo refuse to come that then the counsell shall supply the vaccancies by chosing proxes in their roume. Item, that the commissioners of the burghs of Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Innerkeithing and Dumfermling, or any one of them, attend the said electione the forsaid day for preventing of all disorder and confusione that may happen in the forsaid electione.

EDINBURGH. 17 July 1710.

Sett for the burgh of Queensferry.

27 July 1710.

6. Agreed with James Cunningham, younger of Achinharvie on behalf of the town of Saltcoats and parishes of Stevenstoun and Ardrosson for communicating the liberty of trade to the inhabitants on the royal burghs being relieved of eighteen pence of the tax roll.

Agreement with Saltcoats, etc.

13 November 1710.

Edinburgh, John Duncan; Dundie, George Yeaman; Stirling, John Ærskin; St Andrews, Alexander Watson; Bamf, Sir Alexander Ogilvie.

Sederunt.

EDINBURGH. April 1711.

Memoriall to commissioners of trade.

easie if any proper way were thought of to repair the damage of the grantees who are not many.

(6.) The fishers have seldome stock enough to buy salt and other materialls for curing of fish, and they sell their herring by retail to the merchants, but the fish being delivered by tail they grow cold and unfitt for salting and are bruised by casting from hand to hand in telling. This can only be remeeded by ane act of parliament appointing fresh herring to be sold by the fishers at the places where they are taken by measure and not by taill.

(7.) There are some inconsiderable differences in word betueen the oath appointed to be taken by exporters of fish from England to entitle them to a drawback and that appointed to be taken by the exporters of fish from Scotland for the same end, and these differences tho very small raise disputs at making out of debentures which can be no otheruise remeeded then by ane explanatory act of parliament making the oaths the same in every word excepting these words which concern the curing of fishes here with forreign salt.

(8.) It is thought, with submission, that for security of the fishing and for safety of fleets that either come home north about the coast of Scotland and from voyages to the East and West Indies, the Straits, &c., as well of such fleets that goe to Archangel or other northern places, forts should be built at Brassay Sound in Zetland and Kerstoun in Orkney, tuo excellent roads. The necessity of this in time of peace as well as of war is evident, for in such places fleets of fishers may be secure, and if forts were built, magazines of salt, nets, tree, and others, would be made to attend the fishing seasons, and stores would be provided to supply disabled ships. In time of war these places are as open and free to enemies as to natives or allies, so long as there are no forts in these places, and at this time the enemies ships do often lye there in wait and exact a kind of contribution. Besides, if any rivalship arise concerning the fishing trade, or if the pouers in the north shall increase their navall force, it will be of great use for the Queen and her successours to have forts on these places, which may be built for small charge and maintained by small garrisons.

(9.) For the like reason a fort should be built at some convenient place on the west coast of Scotland.

EDINBURGH. April 1711. Memoriall to commissioners of trade.

(10.) The pressing of fishermen into the sea or land service is ane exceeding discouragement to the fishing, for upon the least appearance of a ship or officer the fishers desert their bushes, and it would very much incourage and increase the number of fishers if her Majestie would be pleased to give her protectione to such as by proper certificats under the hands of any number of justices of peace in the neighbouring county and the principall officer of the nearest customhouse shall appear to be engaged in the fishing.

(11.) There is a particular kind of codd taken upon the north coast of Scotland called the Ratray codling, which at its maturity is a short thick sueet fish, and for which there is greater demand at Malaga, Leghorn, and some other parts in the straits then for any other kind of codd, and whereof great quantities could be furnished upon due incouragement; but this fish being generally from tuelve to sixten or eighten inches long there is no drawback received neither for the salt consumed in curing nor for incouragement, and there is very good reasone to believe that if ane encouragement proportionall to what is given for other salted codd exported were given for the said Ratray codling of tuelve inches and above, it would prove a very profitable trade and improve the revenue far beyond the charge.

(12.) There has been a trade of barrelled codd, ling, and seith fish, for which there is a considerable demand at Hamburg, Breman, and in the Baltick, for which also there is no allouance of drawback, that is, no regular allouance, and therefore the merchants are put once to the necessity of entering the fish first by tail and then when they are brought aboard to barrel them. This is no advantage to the Queen and a burden and uneasiness to the merchant, and the people here that are accustomed to that trade would be contented with a smaller drawback for barrelled codd, ling and seithed fish, then they get when the same fish are exported without being barrelled, so that both the revenue and the merchant would be eased.

(13.) Seeing by the articles of Union our fish must be cured with forreign salt, and that we are neither furnished with ships proper for bringing salt from Spain or Portugall nor convoys for protecting that trade, and that the act of navigatione hath been dispenced with in such emergents, that therefore during the war we may be alloued to import

EDINBURGH. April 1711.

Memoriall to commissioners of trade.

forreign salt from Hamburg or any other place not in enmity with Her Majestie and the rather because exporting of salt from Denmark is discharged.

(14.) The salmond fishing is a very valuable branch of trade, but has of late years decayed exceedingly, of which the causes are partly the non execution of the laws against the killers of salmond in forbidden time, and the destroyers of the fry or smolts of salmond, of which there is one very pregnant instance, the case of the fishing on Dee and Don where the fishing being in a state of decay and growing worse yearly has on a sudden been greatly revived, Her Majestie having been graciously pleased to give ane extraordinary commission to the captains of the independent companyes to enquire into the breakers of these laws, which they having execute with dilligence, hes ansuered the end, and partly this decay hes been occasioned by the shortness of the close time, that is the time wherein the law prohibits the killing of salmond, for whereas that prohibition now beginns at the eight of September and ends the thirty of November the nature of the thing does require that the prohibition should beginn upon the first of September and continue till the last of December both inclusive. As to this trade also, it is to be considered that Tueed, being for some way the ancient boundary of England and Scotland, was almost neglected by the laws and usages of both, and thereby and other particular mismanagement a very considerable salmond fishing has been near ruined, for remeedy whereof it seems expedient that the justices of peace on both sides of the river in the counties of Berwick and Northumberland be appointed conservators of the said river with the same priviledges as the justices of peace upon the rivers of (*blank*) in England have, and to make this the more effectuall the miln dyke at Berwick must be regulated.

(15.) The lobster fishing, though not of equall value to those mentioned, yet it is too valuable to be lost for want of necessary rules, and whereas from Craill and other places there used to be sent five or six ships in one year, at present they have scarce any at all, which is occasioned by destroying the fry of the lobsters when they come into the rocks in the months of May, June and July, which may be easily prevented by a law discharging the taking of lobsters in these months, and indeed the gentry and burrows on that coast are so much disposed to

put that law in executione that there is no doubt if it were made of its effect. EDINBURGH: April 1711.

Memoriall to commissioners of trade.

(16.) The whale fishing is another branch of the fishing which though it does not only nor indeed chiefly lye upon the north coast of Scotland yet beginns from the Orcades and extends northward, and if that trade had due encouragement there are people here very well inclined to set it a going, and that it may be understood what incouragement is desired there is herewith sent a draught of a bill to be presented in parliament and past into ane act.

Tho' the letter from Mr Popple, secretary to the board of trade, does only mentione the case of the fisheries, yet there are some other things concerning the state of the trade in this countrey which deserve the consideratione of that honourable board; and, first, the wool in Scotland, since the strict prohibitions against export, is become a drugg and has greatly impaired the rents of a considerable part of Scotland, nor is there any possibility to bring it againe to be of any use but by the mixture of finer wool, and therfore it seems to be very reasonable that a port be appointed upon the west coast for importatione of Irish wool to be mixed in the manufacture with the coarse wool here. In like manner, there is a litle trade springing up in this countrey which is in danger to be niped in the bud, that is the tanning of lether which through the exporting the bark of trees chiefly to Ireland is like to come to nothing, and now when there is a further duty laid upon green hydes if the materialls of tanning be alloued to be exported it will be a very sensible prejudice.

Address to her Majesty.

To the Queens most Excellent Majestie, the humble address of the committee of the convention of the royall burrows in Scotland. May it please your Majestie. Wee your Majesties most loyall and faithfull subjects, the committee of the convention of the royall burrows in Scotland, doe presume to approach your most excellent Majestie with the most profound and dutyfull respect, humbly and with chearfull hearts to acknowledge the many blessings that we and the trading people in these parts enjoy under your Majesties most auspicious government, and more particularly that ships are appointed both for convoyes and cruzers along this coast, but that your royall care for the good of your people may be more effectuall then hitherto it has been, we beg leave with great submissione to informe

Edinburgh. April 1711. Address to her Majesty.

your Majestie that though three ships are appointed to be convoyes for securing the trade along this coast, tuo only have been here for many months past, and these tuo have lyen for the most part in Leith road, so far within land that small privateers have come up the firth almost in their view and made prises, insulting at the same time the shoar and calling for supplies both of provisions and even pilots, on pain of military executione. There has been none or very few ships convoyed from the north to the firth or from thence to the northward these many months by reasone of their want of necessary supplyes. Though these ships are very fitt for protecting our coast from the insult of the enemies, greater privateers, for convoying our trade to the east countrey or Holland and for bringing about the Russia and West Indian ships that come north about, yet these being joyned by frigots of smaller force would be of great use for covering our coast where the enemies plye with small privateers and run into creeks and under shoar where great ships cannot come at them, whereby it happens that our trade is on the one hand discouraged for want of such small frigots to clear the coast though the government is at considerable expence for that service, and on the other hand these ships who on that account lye here doe press the men from on board of our ships and barks not only to make up their own complement but to turn them over to other ships. This misfortoun, whereby the end of your royall goodness is disapointed, is so much the more remarkable here because of late years and since the beginning of this war your Majesties coast of Scotland was effectually secured by small frigots, but our coast now is much more infested with privateers then at that time. Wee therefore most humbly submitt to your Majesties consideratione if it be not therefore expedient that tuo more small frigots of sixten or tuenty guns be added for convoyes for securing our northern trade, and that they be also instructed to attend that service strictly and receive orders from the provost of Edinburgh for the time, and if it may not be usefull to give the commanders of such ships instructions to abstain from pressing of fishermen or seamen imployed in the coasting trade, especially these outward bound, or even from on board ships returned from long voyages, unless where your Majestie on some urgent occasion shall order otherwayes, for the pressing of seamen in Scotland before the Union was not done by any of your royall ancestors, and however the law may be altered in that

point by a consequence since the Union yet that custome of pressing men being new, with submissione, it would seem to be for the good of the service that it be gone about with some greater cautione then is needed in places where it has long taken place. One great occasione of the convoyes failling in their business is that when ships are foull, want repairs or victualls, there is neither a dock at Leith at present fitt to receive and clean great ships nor navall stores nor contracts for providing your Majesties ships here, and for that reason wee doe also most humbly presume to offer to your royall consideratione if the carying on the designed improvement of the herbour of Leith may not be of use for your royall navy, the security and accomodation of convoys and cruzers, and the good of trade in generall, which improvement your Majestie has most graciously had in your thoughts and touards which some progress has been already made, to the great satisfactione of your people here, for increase of trade and preservation of your ancient city of Edinburgh from unseemly ruines, and if for the same reasone of advantage to your royall navies, convoys, cruzers, and trade, it may not be expedient that a better magazine of navall stores be erected and contracts settled at Leith for provyding your Majesties ships on occasione. Wee submitt, with that deferrence that is due to your royall wisdome, if these things may not be reall improvements of the Union of your Majesties kingdome of Great Britain, and of what use it may be not only in this war but in any subsequent war and even in time of peace for the service of your fleets and increase of trade and navigatione.

EDINBURGH. April 1711. Address to her Majesty.

Wee beg humbly pardon for having taken up so much of your Majesties time, so precious and constantly imployed in a manner worthy of a great and good Queen. Your Majesties tender regard to the good of your people and that readyness shown to hear them and provide for their happiness has given us the boldness thus humbly to address your Majestie in the foregoing particulars. Wee shall only beg leave to add our most ardent wishes for your Majesties long and prosperous reign, to the unspeakable good not of your people only but of all Europe. May it please your Majestie, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur :* ADAM BROUN, *preses.*

Letter to the lords of the admiralty.

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Letter to the lords of the admiralty.

EDINBURGH. April 1711.

Letter to the lords of the admirality.

other things under consideratione the small benefite our trade has had, notwithstanding of the charge the government is put to in maintaining of cruzers and convoyes on this coast, and the prudent care your lordships are pleased to take about that matter, of which the committe and all here are very sensible, they have therefore sent ane address to be presented to Her Majestie on that subject and some other particulars which have a near connexione with it, whereof I presume to send at the desire of the meeting a copy inclosed. The address contains the substance of the generall complaints, and the humble and dutyfull desire of the trading people here for remeeding of them, to which I referr myself. The meeting did also desire me to beg your good offices in procuring what they do with submissione propose. They do with the greater assurance hope for your lordships countenance because nothing can be done for giving quiet to mens minds here in matters of this kind which will not at the same time advance her Majesties service and the trade of Great Britain, as well for the benefite of traders in the southern parts as in the north. I am, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* ADAM BROUN, Edinburgh, 14 Aprill 1711.

Letter to the lords commissioners of trade, &c.

My lords. I did acknowledge the receipt of Mr Popple, secretary to the Board's letter of the 6th of March, written by your lordships commands, by the next post after it came to hand, and did pursuant thereto give nottice of it to the royall burrows in Scotland and to the most considerable merchants every where concerned in the fishery by sending a coppy of Mr Popple's letter to them. Since that the committe of the conventione of the royall burrows have mett extraordinary, and besides the commissioners frome some places very much concerned in the fishery they were assisted by some of the most intelligent and greatest traders in these parts. It is their desire that I give myself the honour to write to your lordships at this time.

The intimatione people here have by Mr Popples letter that Her Majestie has impoured and required your lordships to examine the state and conditione of the severall trades in this kingdome and to make representations thereon to her Majestie, to the end that by her royall interposing with forreign princes and states, and by other proper methods within her dominions, the said severall trades may be advanced, that intimation I say, has given fresh cause to Her Majesties subjects here to

acknowledge her princely care and to pray that God, who has blessed this natione with so excellent a Queen, may long preserve her for the happyness of her people and continue to attend her great and wise counsells with success and glory. EDINBURGH. April 1711. Letter to the lords commissioners of trade.

The trading people here have also a very gratefull sense of your lordships great zeall to second her Majesties most gracious intentions in that matter, and of your care for the trade of this place of the Island, and do return their most hearty and sincere thanks for it. The promotting of the fishing or any other trade here must certainly be of very great advantage to the shipping and commerce of Her Majesties kingdome of Great Brittain in generall, and your lordships applicatione to procure the good of this corner is indeed necessary to revive the spirit of business amongst us. Nothing can more effectually demonstrat the advantages of the Union to both ends of this great Island then the concern shown to improve the fishing on the north coasts wherein, tho the people in Scotland must be imployed because of the situation of the countrey, the principall advantages will still fall to the share of the southern parts where the great consumption of stocks will aluays be. It will take some time before exact accounts, as your lordships desire, can be drawn up of the state and present condition of the fishery with regard to its increase and decrease, the causes or occasions thereof, or what obstruction it has met with and what is fitt to be proposed by way of propper methods for removing these obstructions and preserving and improving the trade, matters very fitt for your lordships inquiry, but to proceed with that exactness both as to facts and reasoning as the committe desire and your lordships will very justly expect, it does require to consult the most knowing and impartiall inhabitants on or about the chief seats of the fishery, which we have begun to do, and as soon as all their returns come to hand we shall presume to communicat to your lordships what may deserve your consideration. In the meantime I take the liberty, at the command of the committe, to transmitt the inclosed memoriall on such heads as presently occur. Some articles do indeed require a remedy by act of parliament, yet even as to these the committe thought that acts would be the more easily passed if the matters were before hand examined and approved of by your lordships and representations made thereon to the Queen. I have also transmitted ane address to the Queen by the committe of the royall burrows concern-

EDINBURGH. April 1711.

Letter to the lords commissioners of trade.

ing the convoys appointed for this coast and the use of having a dock with magazines and wayes laid doun for victualling ships on occasion in this firth at Leith, which the committe thought to have so near a relatione to the improvement and security of trade that they commanded me to communicat it to your lordships and very earnestly to beg your lordships assistance in the subject of that address. The committe doe reckon it a very great happiness that there is ane occasione in matters concerning trade to apply to persons of such worth and emmenence and so well disposed to do reall service to the Queen and your countrey as your lordships are and who can know the reall state of trade both south and north. They hope that as occasion occurrs to give further informatione your lordships will be pleased to receive it. They will aluays endeavour to make their humble overtures impartially and with all due regard to the trade in other places and to the revenue. The committe and I in their name and of all that wish this place well do beg and hope for the continuance of your lordships countenance and protection to this corner, which being so far removed from the ordinary seat of our Princes, the parliaments, and of the great concurse and spring of trades that attend these advantages, doe need the greater care for keeping heat and vigour amongst us, for if these extremities of the island shall decay and want nourishment and strength it must certainly affect the whole body. Give me leave to take this opportunity to add for myself that I am a sincere wellwisher to the commone good of Great Britain, a most faithfull subject to our most excellent Queen, and, with very great respect and truth, I am, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* ADAM BROUN. Edinburgh, 14 Aprile 1711.

Letter to Duke of Queensberry and the other secertarijs of state.

May it pleas your Grace, &c. I presume to inclose a copy of ane address sent by a committe of the royall burrows and others to the Queen about the convoys and cruisers appointed for the security of the coast of Scotland and other matters that have a near concern with that affair. The meeting was pleased to desire me in their name to beg your graces assistance in this business wherein the trade and satisfactione of these parts are very nearly touched. I hope the importance of the thing and the opportunity of doing good to the fair traders who have great confidence in your lordships justice will plead my excuse for this trouble, and I humbly beg your grace will be pleased to present the address to Her

Majestie. I am, [etc.] *Sic subscribitur:* ADAM BROUN. Edinburgh, 14 Aprile 1711. EDINBURGH. April 1711.

Letter to Jeriswood.

Honoured Sir. The committe of the royall burrows have appointed me in a particular manner to give you their thanks for minding our poor country, so long and often forgot. They and everybody are convinced by the letter of the 6th of March from the secretary of the counsell of trade of what good use it is to the Queens service and the good of her people to have men at that board conversant intimatly with the people and having interest and experience in both the south and north parts of her kingdome and so perfectly sincere and firme as you are. The memoriall of the burghs has many heads and yet more might be proposed and perhaps less gratefull but they will be willing to be advised by yourself in the forme and manner of such applications. There are some particulars which I can explain with more freedome to you then to others. In the first article the manner of making particular agreements with touns in France, Brabant and Flanders, such as has been made with Hamburg, *mutatis mutandis*, may seem at first looke impracticable, for how (may one say) can these things be done without treaties, how shall treaties be caryed on with particular touns or in her Majesties name with France who does not oun her authority. To these I ansuer you, that such contracts have anciently been with Bruges and Antwerp, such are now standing with Campvere in Zeland, for the staple contract is originally a contract with the royall burrows who proceed with approbation of the Queen, and forreign states willing to treat will proceed in that method, allouing particular touns to treat, and such contracts will bind as long as they are good for both sides, and now I pray you tell me what contracts or treaties will hold out longer. Yet these things are to be mentioned with cautione to others lest these pouers in our burrows seem too suspicious.

One thing the committee has charged me with, as to the bringing salt from Hamburg, whether it may be done by the treaty latly concluded with that place. If that treaty does not allow our people that liberty they have it not otherwayes and are at a lose that they cannot bring salt so necessary for their fishing from such places where their fish is imported, besides that straitning of the importing forreign salt from any place seems to be ane unnecessary discouragement, and at this time (which pinches us more) the Danes doe not suffer, as usually, forreign salt to be exported

Recessus. April 1711.

Letter to Jerviswood.

from their countrey, that it may be wholly imployed on fishing there, so that if we have not leave to bring it from Holland or Hamburgh our ships will often return in a great part empty and at least stored with the less profitable commodities. From the first of these places, possibly, men will not allow us to bring our salt, but there seems to be good reasone to allow us to bring our salt from the latter who take our fishes. Upon this head give me leave still by order of the committee to acquaint you that severall people here have a mind to complain that Hamburg stealls our herring trade in Orkney, &c., but this has been waved at this time for many reasons for it does not seem congruous to complain so soon after a treaty. Next, the Hamburgers do maintain the people of the countrey in the mean time and give them labour, and why should they not till we can do it and our fishing be a little advanced, yet that kind of commerce betueen the Hamburgers and the inhabitants in these islands deserves considera-tione both for the sake of the trade and of the revenue, and this is a farther reasone to encourage the fishing that when it grows we may work out strangers gently and for building of forts to secure Brassi Sound and Kerstoun. I am, [etc.] Edinburgh, 14 Aprile 1711.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

ABSTRACT OF ACTS OF CONVENTION between 1631 and 1649. From "Compend of the Acts, Statuts, and Constitutions of the Generall and Particular Conventions," submitted to the General Convention in July 1700. (*See* p. 306.)

Here beginns the 5th Burrow Book, from Anno 1631 *to* 1649.

DYSART. July 1631.

THE matters of the fishings being in agitation and likely to take effect, the convention ordains that there be ane particular exception contained in the said gift, according to the bounds sett down here as follows:—The commissioners of burrows being convened anent the letter sent down be the commissioners of this kingdome in the matter of the fishing to the lords of councill, requireing their advyce anent the bounds of the fishings of this countrey, and the saids commissioners having advyced thereanent, hes condescended thereupon in manner following, viz., upon the east coast of Scottland, from St Obbs Head [to the Red-Head] in Angus, which compehends the coast of the Merse, Lothian, the Firth, Fyfe, and ane pairt of the coast of Angus, and fourtie myles without the course from the said St Obbs Head to the Red Head; from the Red Head north noreast alongs the coast of Angus, Mearns, Marr, and Buchan to Buchanness, and 40 myles of the said coast; from Buchanness norwest and benorth to Duningsbayhead in Caithness, comprehending therein the coast of Bamfe in Murray upon the south side, Murray Firth, and the coast of Rossa, Sutherland, and ane pairt of Caithness upon the north, and fourty myles within the course from the said Buchanness to the said Duningsbiehead; and from the said Duningsbiehead in Caithness west alongs to the coast of Caithness and Strathnaver to Fairayhead in Strathnaver and fourty myles of the said coast; with fourty myles round about the Isles of Orkney and Zetland; from the said Fairayhead directly from alongs the coast of Strathnaver to the head of Storeashen and 40 miles of the said coast; and from the said head of Storeashen to the outmost point of the Isle of the Lewis, comprehending therein the haill seas interjected betwixt the said head of Storeashen and outmost point of the said Isle of Lewis, with all the isles and lochs within the samen and fourteen myles without the course from the said head of Storeashen to the said outmost point of the Lewis; from the said outmost point of the Lewis south about

Reserved places for fischeing.

Appendix I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Reserved places for fishing.

the haill Iales of the Lewis to the westmost part of Baray nearest south south-east to the southmost part of the Isle of Yla, 14 myles without the course; from the said westmost part of Baray to the Mule of Kintyre nearest south-east to the Mule of Galloway; which bounds, from the head to the Store of Ashen west norewest to the eastmost point of the Lewis, and from thence south to Baray, and from thence to Yla and Mule of Kintyre to the Mule of Galloway, comprehends the haill yles and lochs in the west, with the lochs upon the maines of Strathnaver, Tarbat, Lochaber, Lorne, Kintyre, Rhenfrew, Cunninghame, Kyle, Carrick, Galloway; and from the said Mule of Galloway east to the Isle of Whithorne; from the said Isle of Whithorne alongs the coast of Galloway, eastward to Sullway Sands and 14 myles of the said coast. Which bounds being of that necessity that neither the inhabitants upon the coast of this kingdom nor the inhabitants of the Iales can live without the saids bounds be reserved to themselves, to the end the samen be not exhausted be others but left to the natives sustenance, therefor ordains the saids bounds to be sent next to Mr John Hay for his further instruction for obtaining of the saids bounds designed and reserved for them, and to that effect ordains their clerk to wrytt ane letter to him in their names and to subscribe the samen, whereanent thir presents shall be his warrand. (2.)*

Factors marrying.

Statute that the factors in Campheir shall be persons unmarryed, and at their marriage their factorship shall expire, and they shall not marry without first makeing compt, reckoning, and payment with the merchand who hes employed him. (6.)

Absents.

Statute that the absents from or these that goes away before they subscribe the books at particular conventions also well as at generall shall be unlawed. (6.)

Table of the conservators dues.

There is ane table of the conservators dues in anno 1606 conforme to which he has been in use to exact, and ordains the samen to stand and no alteration to be made by the conservator but that which is done either by particular or general conventions. (7.)

Leitts, knights, and barrons.

Unlaws the town of Bamfe for putting knights and barrons upon the leitt to be magistrats. (8.)

Factors, merchants, Campheir.

Discharges the factors of Campheir and merchands trading there to sell their goods to factors for Holland and West Flanders, being prejudicial to our tradeing, finds this discharged befor being prejudiciall as said is. (9.)

Conserjary house.

The convention ratifies the act of July 1616 anent the conserjary house, and further declares that merchands sones and merchands when they are intrusted with the father or masters affairs that they shall keep ordinaries att ye said house, discharging all factors, &c., haveing the benefite of the nation, from selling of beer, wine, meat and drink, to any merchands, &c., and ordains the master of the conserjarie house to have sufficient English beer. (10.)

* The figures at the end of the acts refer to the folio of the original record.

There being a restraint of salt endeavoured to be transported out of the country, except a certaine quantity, and upon foraign salt, which will be prejudicial to the fishings, for obviating whereof Mr John Hay is commissionat to London. (10.) Salt.

Master David Wedderburn haveing reformed the grammer, presented the samen to the convention, but before they would doe any thing therein, ordained 200 copies to be dispersed up and down the country, to the effect any knowing person might give in their animadversions before the samen was fully concludit to be observed as ane grammer. (11.) Wedderburn's grammer.

Statuts as of before that whatsomever burgh shall be decerned in ane unlaw, &c., that the burgh that votes for remitting of the said unlaw shall be unlawed in 50 pound and to have no vote till reall payment. (11.) Unlaws.

There is an act for casting furth of ballast in the river, discharging the samen which is casten above Inchgarvie under the paine of twelve shillings to be payed for every last. (15.) Against casting furth ballast.

Augments three stovers upon the seck of goods of the duty payable to the conservator, viz., 14 stuirs be the goods and 4 be the ship, coals being free of the said augmentation, which augmentation is to endure during the burrowes pleasure. (15.) Conservators dues.

Upon supplication made be the burrows to the secret councill there is ane proclamation issued that all yairne should be sold be weight; ordains the burrows to intimate the same and to see it put to execution. Yearne to be sold be weight.

There is overtures made for setting of fires upon the firth heads though the samen be in England. (16.) Anent fires in the firth.

The burrows advice concerning the necessarie fishing of this country as follows:—That whereas it having pleased his Majestie to wrytt to the privie councill anent their advice for the fishings of this countrey, as his Majesteis letter of the date the fourth day of July last at more length bears; as likewayes, it pleased his Majestie to wrytt to the commissioners of burrows anent the said matter, as ane other letter direct to him thereanent dated as the other at more length proports; and the commissioners of burrows having conveened with certain of the nobility and gentrie and conferred anent the saids places they give in their opinion and advice to the saids lords of the necessary places for the countrey for fishings, without which the countrey could not subsist, which were the firths of Lothian, Murray, and Dumbarton and fourty miles of that coast of this country which lyes betwixt Buchanness and Duningsbehead; and the saids nobility and gentry remitted the consideration of the haill remanent fishings of this kingdome to the commissioners of burrows, and they being urged be the privie councill gave in their opinion thereanent, of the which two advyces the tennor follows:—And first the advice of the nobility, &c., anent the necessary places of fishing. Whereas the lords of his Majesties privie councill has desired ane number of the nobility gentry and commissioners of free burrows to declare their opinions anent the Reserved places of fishing.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Reserved places of fishing.

fishings necessary for the particular use of the countrey of Scotland, they haveing conveened and taken the samen to their consideration, declares that the fishings of the firth of Lothian lyeing betwixt the land of St Obbs Head in the Merse on the south and the Red Head in Angus upon the northand within the course betwixt the saids heads; the fishing of Murray first betwixt Buchanness and Duningsbiehead and within the course betwixt the saids heads; and the fishings within Dumbarton firth lyeing betwixt the Mule of Kintyre and the Mule of Galloway; and the course within the saids two points are so necessary to this countrey that it can not subsist if the same be communicat to any other nation and not reserved for the proper use of the nation. They likeways declare that it is necessary for the weill of the saids fishings within the saids firths that 40 myles be reserved likewayes to the natives without the course betwixt the saids heads and betwixt Buchanness and Duningsbiehead, yet heirin they submitt themselves to the determination of his Majesty. And farder it is declared that in the space betwixt Redhead and Buchanness there is an absolute necessity of reservation of 40 myles of the said coast for the dayly use of the inhabitants liveing thairupon. As likeways, for the good of salmond fishings in the rivers of Dee, Done, Ivie, and both the Esks, which be the incroaching of the bushes nearer the shoar then the said distance may altogether be undone, to the great prejudice of the haill kingdom, being one of the most pryme native commodities of this land. And as for the Isles of Orkney, Zetland, and remanent isles and lochs therein, and in the main foreagainst the same, they agree that the same be remitted to the commissioners of burrows further advice and declaration. And last, it is humbly desyred that the privie councill would be pleased to recommend to the commissioners for this kingdome to interceed with his Majesty for such retribution as can be had for the benefite granted to the English upon this our coast. Follows the advice of the burrows anent the other places of the fishings, remitted to their consideration :—That where it hes pleased the privie councill to desyre the commissioners of the burrows to declare their opinions what fishings in the lochs in the mayne land without the firth is reserved and isles adjacent thereto and lochs within the samen, remitted to the consideration of the commissioners of burrows be the nobility and gentry, are fittest to be observed and reserved for the benefite of trade, and haveing maturely advised thereant have delyvered their opinions as after followes :—IMPRIMIS, Anent the lochs in the mayne land lyand betwixt the Fairyhead and Strathnaver and the Mule of Kintyre, they declare its necessare to reserve all the lochs within the said mayne land lyand betwixt the said Fairyhead and the Kyle, together with Loch Wryne lyand upon the south side of the said Kyle. (20.)

Iles, lochs.

Anent the isles, being in number above 220, and the lochs of the samen, being infinite in number, they declare its fitt to reserve the inner syde whilk is the east side of the isles of Lewis, Ewest, Bara, and Muggersland, and lochs of

the samen, together with the Bread Loch and the Bybillhead upon the north part of the Lewis; as also Locharloway upon the backside thereof.

Isles of Skye.

Item, in the Isle of Skye they declare that it is fitt to observe and reserve Loch Ushert lyand upon the east side of the said Isle.

Noe bushes to fish upon such and such bounds.

Item, they declare for the good of the fishings reserved in the saids isles and maine lands, it is absolutely necessar that there be noe bush fishing betwixt the islands and the mayne lands whilk is from the Fairayhead upon the mayne and the north east point of the Lewis, nor within the course lyand betwixt the saids two points and 40 myles from the north eastmost point of the Lewis.

Orkney and Zetland.

Item, anent Orknay and Zetland it is necessarie to reserve the coasts of the samen and 14 myles from the saids coasts, yet anent the saids 14 myles they refere the samen to his Majesty.

Salmond fishing to be haillily reserved.

They declare also that the salmond fishing in these places are wholly to be observed to the use of the natives.

Haill Lochs to be reserved.

Item, they declare that all these fishings hes been continually fished be the merchands and fishers of this realme, and that they are able to fish the samen to the full, and that noe stranger hes been admitted to fish in these places. And that, without reservation of the same, trade can not be mentained nor subsist.

Several places for consideration.

And last, for the remanent lochs of the mayne land betwixt the Kyle and Mule of Kintyre, excepting Loch Wryne, as also for the back sydes of the saids Isles of the Lewis, Ewest, Bara, Muggersland and Sky, excepting the particular lochs above mentioned, and all the haill remanent lochs and isles of the samen, as hes been formerly declared in the former instructions, they remit the samen to his Majesties consideration how maney of the same his Majesties royall judgement shall think fitt to communicat. (20.)

Commissioner to London.

There is commission given to Mr John Hay to go to London anent the forsaid fishing and burghs of barrony that are come to soe great height that they render the burghs royall altogether of noe trade.

Copper coyne.

There being many prejudices threatned by the coyneing of copper oppones severall burghs to get the samen stopped. (25.)

Signature in favours of the burghs.

The King being to come to Scotland, and probable occasion may offer to clear the differences betwixt royall burghs and burghs of barrony, therefor ordains, be way of preparation, that ane signature be drawen ratifying all the burrows priviledges and the charter granted be King David to the burrows, and to be extended in such lawfull manner as may be agreeable to the laws of this countrie. (26.)

Marches, shipping, privileges of burghs, patent.

There is ane act for clear rydding of marches betwixt burghs of royallty and barronie, and ordaineing ane signature to be drawn up concerning the priviledges of burrows, seeing the samen was warranted by the act of parliament, and to be docked by his Majesties advocat, as also there is to be eiked to the 58 patent ane commission to sett down laws and ordinances anent shipping and for guyding of masters and mariners and ordering them as follows:—Forsaemeikle as the

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Marches, shipping, privileges of burghs, patent.

commissioners of burrows haveing thir many years bygone endeavoured to have made ane perfect distinction betwixt them and the burghs of barrony and other unfree places, whereby the foresaids usurpers might be suppressed, and especially haveing for this effect upon the fifth day of December last, ordained ane signature to be drawn up containing ane ratification of their haill libertyes contained in the acts of parliament and in their Generall Charter granted to them be King David; lykeas, the present commissioners, after mature deliberatione had anent the said signature, hes for diverse causes thought it good that the said charter granted be the said King David should not be confirmed but rather soe much thereof as they have thought necessar shall be contained in that part of the new signature where his Majesty does of new dispone certain libertyes to the saids burrows; and haveing caused draw up the said new signature containing the haill privileges of the burrows, and having perused the samen, they ordain the said signature as the samen is conceaved to be wrytten over *in mundo* and docked be the advocatt and to be sent to Mr John Hay, their commissioner, to be expede be his Majestie; and for this effect ordains ane letter to be sent therewith to the said Mr John in their names, earnestly recommending the prosecution thereof to him, and withall to intreat his Majestie in their names for directing ane warrand to the lords of councill and exchequer for passing of the same without any question, since the same is soe weill warranted be acts of parliament, and to desyre him to send the samen down with all the dilligence he can to Edinburgh; which being done ordains the said burgh to conveen with them the burghs of Dundee, Perth, Aberden, Stirling, Linlithgow, Glasgow, Aire, and Haddingtoun, with all convenient dilligence thereafter, to which the burrowes and most pairt of them conveened, the present commissioners, for themselves and in name of the haill remanent burrows, gives full power and commission for prosecuting of the said signature and for useing of all means for obtaining the samen past and depurseing such soumes of money as they shall think necessary for performance thereof, which being suae depursed they obliedge them and their burghs for themselves and in name foresaid to refound the samen with the interest thereof. And farder, the saids commissioners considering that they be the acts of parliament hes power in their conventions to sett down laws for the weillfare of the burrows and floorishing of the merchand estate; and considering that there is nothing concerns them more than the flourishing of shipping and the good government amongst masters and mariners, throughout lake thereof both the merchand estate and shipping is much prejudged; therefor they ordaine the clerk to eik to the said patent ane commission to the saids commissioners in their conventions to sett down lawes and orders for governing of the shipping and for guideing masters and mariners of this kingdome wheresoever they travell, outwith or inwith this kingdome, shall be subject to such laws and orders as the saids merchands and mariners shall be enjoyned into in all things; with power to every burgh within themselves to putt the saides lawes to execution; and with power also to the

saids commissioners, aither be themselves or judges foresaids, at the instance of the agent or any other particular party, to execute the same, with all other clauses needfull, whereanent thir presents shall be their warrand. And ordains Mr John Hay to be acquainted herewith and be desired to use his best means for passing of the signature with this addition forsaid; if not, to wrytt over the said signature leaving out the said commission anent the shipping, and with diligence to send the samen hither; and ordains the burgh of Edinburgh to advance the soume of 530 merks for expedeing of the said signature; and the saids commissioners for themselves and in name of the haill remanent burrows oblidges them to repay the samen at the next general convention without any further warning or premonition to be made to them, and in case of not payment at the tyme foresaid to pay the same with interest due therefor. And the saids burrows and the said master John Hay to report their diligence anent the premisses to the next general convention, and the said matter to be remembered at the next convention. (30.)

Marches, shipping, privileges of burghs, patent.

Ordains ane letter to be written to Mr John Hay for stopping of putting ane old act of parliament to execution.

Old act of parliament.

Ordaines that maltmen should take no more betwixt a boll of bear and malt but 6s. 8d., seeing commodities is risen to greater price than they were at the makeing of this act. (30.)

Maltmen.

There being maney persons of the merchand estate projectors of monopolies which are very prejudiciall to the interest of burrows, therefor it is ordained to be added to the burges oath that no freeman shall project any monopolies directly or indirectly, prejudiciall to the burgh or burrows, and that none putt to their hands and give declarations in favours of any patent prejudicial to the merchand estate without advyce of the councill of the burgh whereof he is a member. (33).

Montrose, July 1632. Addition, the burges oath.

Ordains that the secret council be supplicated for causeing coin small pieces of silver for exchange according to the exigencie of the people for things of small value, seeing there is nothing passing now but dollars, and these small pieces to be different from the reckoning of England, viz., 16d. pieces, 2d. pieces, and 32d. pieces. (34.)

To coyn small pieces of money.

Statuts that these that passes by the staple port with their staple or forraigne goods, that the conservator shall seize upon the goods when they shall happen to have any at the said port and cause them pay double dues, and ordaines the burgh to uplift the dues from the burgesses that they should have payed there in caise they carry their staple goods anywhere else. (35.)

Staple port.

The burrowes, haveing several tymes written to the magistrats of Camphier anent several grievances sustained by the Scots merchands there, received no answer, att last wrote ane positive letter to know their mind as to the redressing of the saids grievances and gave commission to the conservator to treat with Midleburgh and other places anent what conditions they would offer (*blank*) they would transport the staple. (36.)

Resolution to change staple port in respect grievances not redressed.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Complaints against factors.

Ordaines the conservator to rectifye the abuses of the factors takeing two and ane half of the hundred and rebateing of briefes that is without hazard, and yet takes their full factor fee and makes the merchands abyde the day of the brieff; as also the merchands (*blank*) with the factors is grown to ane great abuse as they make feasts thereupon; and lykeways when any merchands sells any goods of his own they refuse to accept. Item, the factor takes ten per cent in the year whereas they should take but eight. (37.)

Wedderburn's grammar to be taught in schools.

Ordaines Wedderburns grammar to be used be all schoolmasters and taught in schools within the kingdom. (38.)

Index of acts.

Ordaines the clerks to draw up ane haill index of all the statuts, constitutions, and matters contained in the register of the acts of burrows. (40.)

Sir John Hay, report of his diligence at court.

There is report made be Sir John Hay anent his diligence at London as to what particulars the burrows had enjoyned him and gave particular accompt of every point as follows:—(45.)

Item, anent the several heads of the missive concerning the several commissions given to Sir John Hay for dealling with his Majesty in the matters after specifeit, compeared the said Sir John and declared the first, conforme to one of the instructions given to him be the commissioners conveened at Perth, 23 of September 1631, ordaineing him to deall with his Majestie for ratification of the patent granted to the burrows of this kingdome of their ships and goods in payment of custome in England and Ireland as the natives there, and especially for makeing of the samen effectuall in Ireland, he had procured a new gift of the equality of customes in all his Majesties kingdoms, under his Majesties great seal, dated at Westminster 10th April last, which the said Sir John produced, conforme whereunto there was the lyke granted in Scotland under the great seall thereof to his Majesties subjects in England and Ireland, and declared that the same was intimat lawfully throw the ports and burrows of England; as likeways ane copie of the said patent signed by his Majestie direct to the deputes of Ireland, with ane other letter for publishing thereof there. And anent the eight act of the particular convention holden at Perth the 23 September 1631, anent the burghs of barrony and commission given to him for suppressing of their encroachments upon the free burghs, declared that he had procured ane letter from his Majesty to the lords of session, conforme to their commission which was delyvered to them, as lykeways to the lords of councill, willing them that in no erection of burghs of barrony hereafter there be no farder liberty granted to them in any patent then by the lawes of this kingdome competent to any burgh of barrony, and that none of them hereafter be erected with any priviledges which be the lawes of this kingdome are proper to burghs royall. And anent the patent procured be Robert Buchan of the fishing of the peell in Scotland, which by the said commission he is ordained to procure the recalling thereof, the said Sir John produced a letter from his Majestie to the lords of councill, with ane copie thereof, willing them to conveen before them the said Robert and discharge the said patent

and publish the said discharge and expead no other thereafter, as the letter dated at Oatlands, the last of July last, bears. And anent the fifth act of the last convention, holden att Edinburgh the twenty-sixth of April last, ordaining the said Sir John to deall with his Majestie anent the act of parliament made anent maltmen, the said Sir John produced a letter from his Majestie to the lords of councill, willing them to sett ane new price according to the tyme betwixt the boll of barley and the boll of malt, and in the meantyme discharging the execution of the former act dated att Oatland last of July last. And likeways produced a letter direct be his Majestie, willing that no new gift be expede tuitching the office of constabulary till the commissioners of free burrows be lawfully cited and heard to object; and if any question arise anent their libertys to remitt the same to the judge ordinar. And sicklyke, the said Sir John reported that he being informed that there was some persons bussied in procuring certain patents for manufactories for cloath and stuff within this kingdome, and least the burghs should suffer prejudice therein, that he had procured a letter to his Majesties councill willing them to call before them the councill of Edinburgh, or such other burghs as they shall find willing to undertake the inbringing of tradesmen, and to grant them such priviledges as may encourage them, restraining all others during their tyme, dated at Oatlands the last of July last. And sicklyke produced ane letter from his Majestie to the present commissioners, willing them to contribute their endeavours for bringing the work of fishing to perfection, for which his Majestie promises to mentaine and defend their libertyes, dated at Beaulie the 15 of August last. (45.)

Sir John Hay, report of his diligence at court.

The expences of Sir John Hay, his jurney to London, since the year 1629, being employed by the burrows, extends to 24,000 li., which Edinburgh did advance, and the burrows obleidges them to pay the samen at 3 termes, Edinburgh paying their proportion of the said soume conforme to the taxt roll. (45.)

Sir John Hay's expences to court.

There is ane act anent supplicating his Majestie that restraint may be taken off for importing of victuall as follows:—That whereas victuall throw all Europe is become the prime and chiefest commodoty whereby all trade is maintained, which commoditie is here suppressed even in tymes not fitting and ane unnecessar restraint of importing established, therefor the commissioners finds it expedient to supplicat his Majesty for causing ane settled order to be taken whereby it may be licentiat that at all tymes it be lawfull to the merchands, without any imposition or custome, to import victuall from forraigne countries to girnell, keep, and transport the samen againe alse freely, provideing alwayes at the incoming of the said victuall the importer shall find caution not to sell the samen againe within the countrie, the boll of wheat being at 40 merks and the boll of oatmeall at eight merks; which licence might tend to the great enriching of the countrie and prove a great mean of holding in of money the tyme of necessity. And for this effect they ordaine Sir John Hay to insist with his Majesty hereanent and to lay open what commodity may redound to the

Imported victuall.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

countrie and incommodity they sustaine be the restraint forsaid. As likeways to supplicat his Majestie anent the manner of money. And the said Sir John to report his diligence hereanent to the next general convention of burrowes. And this to be ane head of the next missive. (46.)

Imported victuall.

Commission anent fishing.

Commission to Sir John Hay to go to London anent the fishing and reserved places. (47.)

Instructions to Sir John Hay.

Several instructions given to Sir John Hay when he went up to court as follows, viz.:—(49.)

Imprimis, the saids commissioners shall informe his Majesty of the necessity of reservation of the lochs of the main land and isles and others, contained in the declaration given in be them to the privie councill, and to humbly supplicate his Majesty to ratify the samen. Next, if his Majesty shall insist for the further enlargement of the saids places, to declare to his Majestie their willingness and that they have taken to their consideration how the samen work may be most profitable and upon sure grounds begun and continued, and have thought fitt in all humility to represent to his Majesty the great oppression and wrongs done to his Majesties subjects be the subjects of the estates of the Low Countreys, and be the Hamburgers and Brymers, be encroaching upon the seas and coasts of Scotland and upon the Isles of Zetland and Orknay, and now lately upon the isles in the Lewis, to the great detriment of his Majesties subjects; and if the samen be continued it is likely that these rich fisheries which formerly hes been the means of the trade shall be made unprofitable to his Majesties subjects; and therefor to show their willingness to advance all his Maiesties designes, that they would humbly entreat his Majestie to free the seas of Scotland and isles of the samen of the bushes of the saids Northlands and other strangers resorting to the Isles of Orknay and Zetland, at least to free the coasts of the said kingdome of the saids bushes or other fisher boats of the Netherlands, the space of 28 or 14 myles; and to discharge them to have any fishing near the coasts of the said mainland or isles, and the Hamburghers and Brymers of that trade within Zetland or Orknay, otherways than according to the lawes of Scotland; for the which they as his Majesties most humble subjects will offer to his Majestie this his Majesties most royall work of fishing to the utmost of their power, be setting furth such ane competent number of bushes as shall proportionably fall to their part, and use all other means for improveing of the saids fishings of the isles and lochs of the samen and of the mainland of this kingdome, but also will consent that his Majesty grant liberty to the subjects of England and Ireland who shall be free of the association of the fishings, intendit freely to fish in all the seas of the said kingdome and isles thereof and lochs of the main land and isles of the same in the same manner as they doe, exceptand always the particular firths of Lothian, Murray and Dumbarton, and the bounds reserved for the salmond fishing and indemnity thereof, contained in the declaration given in be the lords of his Majesties privie counsell, both nobilitie and gentry, and the said

commissioners of burrows; in the which case and noe otherways they declare they are able to grant the said enlargement without their own undoing utterly; therefore humbly to supplicat his Majestie that since the fishing within the isles and lochs of the same and main land of this kingdom will be unprofitable if any bush fishing be permitted betwixt the Fairayhead in Strathnaver and the north eastmost point of the Lewis, or within the seas lyand within the saids two points of the Lewis and 14 myles from the eastmost point of the said Isle of the Lewis, and therefor his Majesty would be pleased to discharge any bush fishing there; with liberty always to the association to fish within the saids bounds in manner as is presently accustomed be the natives, whilk is most usefull in these parts. As also that his Maiestie would be pleased to discharge any bush fishing there, and that he would be pleased to remove the strangers furth of the Lewis and isles adjacent thereto, and to appoint the tymes of the fishing as follows, viz., the bush fishing upon the east coast the 24 June yearly, and the Isles fishing the first of September yearly. Farder, since the liberty of trade and packing and peilling of fishes granted be his Majesties predecessor to the free royall burrowes of this realme, and that they at his Majesties desire consents that all the members of the association, English and Irish, shall be free to pack and peill fishes and export the samen, that therefor his Majesty might discharge them from any other trade within the said kingdome and isles thereof, and that they hire none of the fishers of the said kingdom and isles thereof to the prejudice of the natives, and that they associat no strangers to themselves, and that English nor Irish shall fish any salmond fishing within the said kingdom or isles thereof.

Fishing in English and Irish seas.

As also, it may please his Majesty to grant to the subjects of Scotland of the said association liberty to fish freely in all their coasts and seas of England and Ireland and isles of the samen, and that alsewell herrings and whitefish as pillsheats, and that upon the samen conditions, libertyes and payment of customes, as the natives doe, and with the lyke liberty to pack and peill upon the maine land and export the samen furth thereof.

Liberties of burrows.

They are also to supplicate his Majestie that this their consent to the inlargement of trade in the matter of fishing may not be prejudiciall to the liberties of the saids royall burrows in no other point of the samen, and it would please his Majestie to ratify and approve the liberties alse weill in packing and peilling of fishes and exportation of the samen as in all other parts granted to them.

Association of fishing.

They are also to will their commissioner in all the treatie of the fishings to advert the samen to be done to the most advantage and least prejudice of the burrows.

Exaction of customes.

Item, to procure ane ratification of the patent granted to the burrows of payment of customes in England and their ships in Ireland as the natives there. And since in Ireland, notwithstanding of the said patent, there is ten shillings of

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

custome of the tunn of wines imported within Ireland in Scotts bottomes, that his Majestie would discharge the samen and ordaine the said patent to be obeyed in all points.

Burghs of barrony.

Lastlie, to informe his Majestie anent the prejudice sustained be the free royall burrows in erection of burghs of barrony, and therefor to supplicat his Majestie for remead thereof.

To acquaint Edinburgh with all emergent affairs.

And finally, whatsomever shall be incident and which may concerne the burrows to obviat the same and advertise the toun of Edinburgh. (52.)

Anent dollars.

There is commission given to Edinburgh to treat with the secret councill anent the dollars and money.

Verification of the missive.

Statut anent the verification of the missive and which way the samen is proven. (56.)

Skippers, portage.

Statut that no portage shall be allowed to masters and mariners but that such competent allowance be given to them in their hyres whereby they may live honestly, and that no freeman shall be partner with ane unfree skipper under the paine of ane hundred pound. Followes the tenor of the statute:—The commissioners of burrows being conveened, the 36 and 47 acts of the last generall convention of burrows holden at Montrose, July 1632, concerning the tradeing of unfree skippers and restraineing of freemen to be partners with them, the present commissioners statuts that there shall be no portage allowed to masters and mariners, but such competent allowance be given them in their hyres whereby they may live honestly; and whereas in the matter of fishing it might seem the allowance of portage to be necessar, its thought fitt and ordained that the merchand that imployes them shall agree with them for their portage before the hand. And farder for restraineing of unfree skippers dwelling at unfree ports, it is statute and ordained that in no tyme comeing merchands be partners either in ships or goods with the saids unfree skippers, under the paine of ane hundred pund and deprivation of their liberties. And the said commissioners ordaines that all such burgesses as are for the present partners with them shall, betwixt and the next generall convention, free themselves of the ships belonging to them, or otherways draw them to their own parts, under the said paine. And ordaines ilk commissioner to intimat the samen to their burghs, and ilk burgh to intimat the samen to their nighbours, and putt the samen to due execution, under the paine of fourty pound, and to report their diligence thereanent to the next general convention; and this to be ane head of the next missive. (57.)

Ane exellent act of parliament, privileges.

There is an act of parliament in favours of burrows, granted in the year 1633, as followeth:—In the parliament holden at Edinburgh upon the 28 June 1633, our Soveraigne Lord and estates of this present parliament hes ratifyed and approved, and be thir presents ratifyes and approves of all new acts and statutes of parliament made be his Majesties predecessors in favours of the free burrowes, with all priviledges, &c., granted and given to the haill burrows in any tyme

bypast be any of our Soveraigue Lords progenitors, with all that hes followed or may follow thereupone, and decerns and ordaines the samen to have full force, strength, and effect in all tyme comeing, suae that the samen may be putt to due execution in all points; and especially, without prejudice of the generality above written, ratifys the act of parliament made be King James 3d, 1466, ordaining that none saill nor pass in merchandizeing out of the realme but freemen, burgesses, or their familiars, factors, servants being with them in household at meat and drink, excepting and reserving to the prelats, lords, barrons and clerks, as in the said act is contained, and all other exceptions contained in any other act of parliament in force preceding the day and date hereof; and sicklike the act of parliament made be King James the 4th, 1503, cap. 84, ordaining that noe person dwelling out of burrows use any merchandize, nor yet top nor sell wax, wine, silks, spices, nor sicklyke stuff, staple goods, and that none pack nor peill in Lieth nor other places without the Kings burrows, under the escheat of the goods shall be toped, sold, packed or peilled, to incurr that statute; and sicklike the 152 act K. Ja. 6th, 12 par., ordaineing that noe person exerce the trafficque of merchandize but burgesses of free burrows, under the paine of escheat of their haill goods, giveing poure to every burgh be themselves or collector or commissioner depute to search the saids unfreemens goods, intromitt with the samen as escheat, either within the countrey or any other part, to arreist, call, follow and pursue befor any unsuspect baillies to be creat be them; as also the 6th act of K. Ja. 6th, parl. 9, ordaining letters of horning to be direct against unfreemen to find caution for desisting from usurping of the libertyes; declareing that the saids liberties and priviledges mentioned in the said acts are only competent to royall burrowes that hes vote in parliament, discharging all others of all useing and exerceing of the saids libertyes and priviledges; and ordaines letters of horning to be direct be the lords of councill at the instance of all burrowes upon the saids priviledges and former acts of parliament made thereupon without calling of any partie. (62.)

Ane excellent act of parliament, priviledges.

There is ane act ratifying former acts concerning the convention of burrows and sending their commissioners to parliament as followes: Forsuaemeikle as the commissioners of burrowes, resenting the favour and kindness done be their friends at this last parliament, therefor gives and grants for passing of the acts of parliament made in favours of the burrows 1000 merks, and ordaines the agent to borrow the same upon the ordinar profite and to have it in readiness against the next particular meeting, whom they ordaine to delyver, with remembrance of the burrowes goodwill; and ordanes ilk burgh to be requyred for sending their part of the said soume with the said interest to the next general convention of burrows conforme to the taxt roll, under the pain of 20 li. ilk burgh, by and attour ane payment of the said principall soume and interest. (64.)

1000 merks given to friends for procuring act.

Appoints several burrows to meet and consider upon the particulars following, viz., the enlargeing of the places reserved in the matter of the fishings, the

Severall particulars concerning fishing, traile, etc.

Severall particulars concerning fishing, trade, etc.

inequality of trade betwixt this Kingdome and England, new impositions in France, oppression of the Dunkirkers, the new extraordinar taxations, anent the tanners, maltmen, correction house, forbidden goods out of England, manufactories, putting the plaideing to the mercats in folds, patent of the pearle, bleatching with lyme, importing of victuall, the matter of the coine and course dollars, and the penal statute anent the transporting of money. (64.)

Making ane index.

Item, 500 merks to Guthry, clerk, and 40 li to his servant, for his pains in makeing a table of the acts. (64.)

Price of ordinary dyets 12s Scots.

Ordaines the ordinarie of all burghs when the commissioners are to meet to be about 12 shilling Scots. (65.)

Staple port.

Ordaines severall burghs whose trafecquers had passed by the staple port and not payed their dues, to putt such persons under caution to compear befor them in the next convention. (66.)

The English outreik vessells which the burrows took in ill pairt.

Notwithstanding the societie of Scotts and English was not fully settled, yet the English did outreik their veshells for fishing, which the burrowes feared would be very prejudiciall to them, therefor they appointed severalls of their number to meet and consider thereof. (68.)

Discharges louseing and loddneing.

Discharges all unfreemen from makeing mercat louse or loade contrair to the act of parliament in prejudice of burrowes in the chanonrie of Ross, Rossmarknie, Dingwall, and Cromartie. (74.)

The ministers stipend at Campheir 1100 gilders.

Augments the stipend of ane Spang, minister at Campheir, 30 gilders, makeing in all eleven hundred gilders. (76.)

Report be Guthrie of his diligence at court.

There is an act approveing Mr Alexander Guthries diligence at London anent the affaires of the burrows, containeing the particulars done be him at London, as follows:—Compeared William Gray and Mr Alexander Guthrie and made report of their haill proceedings with his Majesty of the haill particulars following, and produced the coppie of his Majesties letter direct to the lords of session, discharging them to proceed in the matter of tyths of the Isles; as likeways the coppie of the letter to the same effect to the Bishop of the Isles, the principall whereof was delyvered to the saids lords of session and Bishop of the Isles; as likewayes, produced two severall letters direct to the commissioners of burrows whilks were instantly read, the one thereof for dividing the inhabitants in several companies for better mannadging of trade, the other for erecting companies of manufactories among them; as also, produced ane signature anent the erection of correction houses; as also ane letter to the lords of councill for discharging the monopolies of pearle, with ane letter to them restraining the frequent granting of protections; with another anent the renewing of the patent of tanning; as also ane coppie of ane letter to the thesaurer principall and depute discharging the executione of that penal statute made anent the transporting of money; as likeways declared their proceeding against the Lord of Spynie, his patent, referred be the parliament to the councill; and last, declared their proceedings in the matter of association of the fishings, and anent the late

restraint in Ireland and mutuall participation of all native commodities betwixt the three kingdomes; wherein they declared that they fand his Maiestie verie willing and that they only lacked time for prosecuting the samen to the final conclusion thereof. With the which proceedings the present commissioners were weill pleased and allowed therof. (82.)

The Sabbath day to be observed at Campheir.

Ordaines the conservator to see the Sabbath day keeped at Campheir. (88.)

Privat persons not to putt their names on publick works.

Discharges any inhabitants of burghs to putt their names or armes upon the publick works of the burgh. (88.)

Erecting of trade, etc.

The burrowes resolves to erect companies for the better mannadgement of trade and for advanceing of the native commodities, and considering the good that will redound to the cities where trade is ordered, therefor ordaines Edinburgh to sett doun such articles and lawes as they shall think meet and present the samen to the first convention. (90.)

Agent at London.

Elects Hendry Alexander, sone to the Earle of Stirling, to prosecut the affairs of burrows at London. (90.)

Imposition in France.

Elects John Trotter, younger, to goe to France anent the down getting of the new imposition layed upon Scotts goods comeing to France. (90.)

Patent of tobacco to be recalled.

Ordaines that ane supplication be presented to the King and councill for recalling of ane patent of tobacco. (93.)

Burghs of barrony.

There is commission granted to one Cockburn, provost of Haddingtoun, for agenting and following furth the debate betwixt the royal burghs and the burghs of barrony, and allows two thousand merks for that effect. (97.)

PERTH. July 1635.

Admission of burgesses, declaration.

Ordaines that when any outland person is admitted burges that he shall first make faith solemnly that he is not pursued be any other burgh or be the agent in generall for usurping against the libertyes of any other burgh, which declaration being taken and the person found to be pursued in manner forsaid, it shall not be lawfull to any burgh to admitt him before first he satisfie the desire of the said pursuit and become ane actual resident with them and find caution not to remove under the paine of j^{c} lib. and deprivation of their liberties. (103.)

Tunnadge.

Commission to several burghs to treat with the secret councill anent the tunnadge. (105.)

Taxt roll.

Commission to several burghs to sett ane new taxt roll. (108.)

Agent at court.

Ordaines ane 100 li. sterling to be given to the agent at court, yearly. (109)

Patent, acts, &c., produced.

There is produced be the agent the patent of correction houses under his Majesties great seall, together with a proclamation forbidding the bleatching with lyme, with the double of the charter of association, as also ane act of council anent the order to be taken with the playding; which are recommendit to the burghs to see the samen observed. (111.)

Expenses to France.

There is ane report made by John Trotter of his diligence in France and his expences comes to 4173 franks. (114.)

Cautioner for a factor.

The convention discharges a cautioner for a factor of his cautionrie in respect the said cautioner had payed great soumes of money, and the discharge is only

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

from the date thereof, and ordaines ilk burgh to acquaint their nighbor that such a person is bankrupt and his cautioner is liberat. (113.)

Impost layed on for Trotters expenses.

There is an impost laid on for payment of John Trotters charges for 8000 merks which Edinburgh payes him and they repayed by the said impost. (116.)

Factors.

The convention declares that it shall not be lawful to any who is not lawfully admitted factor to receave any goods which are not their own proper goods thereafter sent in any other ship, and ordaines the conservator to see the samen putt to executione. (117.)

Conservators dues.

The conservator being bound to the burrowes for serving of the merchands throw the haill 17 provinces, therefor ordaines all those who shall happen to send any coalls or other goods to Holland, or to any other part within the said 17 provinces, to make good and thankfull payment of the dues pertaining to him, conforme as they doe in Zeland, under the paine of payment of double thereof. (117.)

Conservators dues.

The convention augments the duties of the conservator to 24 stivers upon the seck of goods, wherof 18 for the goods and six stivers for the ship, and ordaines all merchands that comes over not haveing a seck of goods to pay five shilling Fleymis, provydeing he hes not sent over ane seck of goods halfe ane year befor. (117.)

Brokers in the Low Countreys.

Discharges any to make use of brokers in the Low Countreys but such as shall obleidge them in all questions that shall arise betwixt them and other merchands to answer befor the conservator and underlye his sentence. (118.)

New taxt roll.

There is ane new taxt roll of the royall burrows to continue the space of three years ay and while the samen be recalled. Edinburgh's proportion is 28 li. 15 s. of the 100. (120.)

Fishing, lights of May.

Commissionats Alexander Guthrie to London anent the articles proponed to them by Sir James Lockhart concerning the fishing and lights of the May which are very prejudicial to the burrows. (123.)

GLASGOW. 5 July 1636.

Playding.

Discharges the buying of playding except it be folded up in folds under the pain of unlaw. (126.)

Constant councill in ilk burgh.

There was at this tyme ane project for settling of a constant councill within burgh and is ordained to be ane head of the next missive. (129.)

Guthries report, his expenses 4600 li.

Mr Alexander Guthrie returns from London and reports that his Majestie had wrytten to the session for administration of justice betwixt the royall burrows, especially Aire, Rhenfrew, Irwine, and that he (*blank*) the matter of fishing to the committee for that effect, as also had granted ane signature for erecting of the saids lights, but had written to the lords of exchequer for staying thereof till the burrows was heard. His charges extended to 4,600 li. (134.)

Customs. book of raites, fishing, monopolies, etc.

Finds it convenient to make offer to his Majesty of two of the 100 of customes to be payed of all goods imported whereof custome is ordinarly payed, as also that his Majesty be petitioned in their names for establishing the book of raites as the samen presently does stand, and for ordaining the custome of the goods exported

to be noe otherwayes uplifted then they are presently conform to the book of rates and decreets given in favours of the burrows, and alse that his Majesty be petitioned for recalling of the patents of the lights upon the May and tobacco, and commission granted be information of Sir James Lockhart anent the fishings, and that his Majesty would be pleased to stay the course of all new devices and monopolies, att least to ordaine the samen not to pass till the burrowes be wairned and sufficiently heard thereanent, and in all other things which may concerne them or any of them. (137.)

Queensferrie.

Ordaines to oppose the erecting of Queensferrie in ane royall burgh it being (*blank*) within the bounds of Linlithgow. (137.)

Act anent fishing.

There is ane act anent the barrell bind and other particulars for the good of the fishing as followes:—The commissioners of burrows being conveened anent the 39 act of the last generall convention concerning the ordering of fishing, the saids commissioners haveing purused what hes been formerly sett down aither anent the barrells of herring or for sufficient packing of herring, they have concluded for the good of the saids fishings that all barrells of herring, white fish, and biefe, shall containe nine gallons of the Stirling pynt not to high at the bilge and of ane short chine, and that the samen shall be made of tight and weill seasoned timber without any whyte wood, sufficiently thick both for holding of pickle as also for enduring of any stress in the handleing, and ilk barrell to be girded with 16 girths, marked at the bung with the coupars mark, under the paine of confiscation thereof if any of them shall be found defective in any of the saids points, and the coupar to be subject in ane unlaw *toties quoties*. And for loyall packing they have concluded that whosoever shall intend to goe to the fishing shall carry with them such suficient quantity of salt as they may make as maney fishes as their ships, barks, &c. shall be able to carrie, compting four barrels of French salt for makeing ane last, and that the skipper and his company shall be discharged from boreing of barrels and letting out of the pickle, under the paine of the skippers being subject to the damnadge; and that none peill any herring to be sold att all under the pain of confiscation thereof; and last, that all herring putt ashoare shall be repacked be ane constant and sworne packer, and none to be transported before they be repacked; and to this effect that ilk burgh shall have a sufficient sworne packer for repacking of all herrings that shall come to the said burgh, and shall be answerable for the sufficiency thereof; and because the settling of this order will depend upon the execution of this act, therefore ordaines ilk burgh to be required to send their commissioners sufficiently instructed thereanent and for establishing thereof to the next general convention, and this to be ane head of the next missive. (133.)

Committee anent coine and manufactories.

There is ane committee appoynted be his Majestie concerning the estate of the coine of this countrie and the cause of the scarcietie thereof and proper

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Patent of the lights of May.

thir presents restricted the said patent and duety therein contained to the soume of 18d. Scotts, to be payed be the natives, and the soume of three shilling Scots be strangers; and declares that all shipes &c. comeing from any part within this kingdome during the moneths of May, June and July, and 15 dayes of August, farder for northland victuallers, shall be free of all duety whatsomever, and binds and obliedges them and their forsaids not to exact or seek any farder duety nor the restricted duety forsaid; lykeas they renunce the same for ever. For the which causes, the saids commissioners of burrows, in name of there burrows, faithfully obliedges them to cause their nighbours to make good and thankfull payment to the saids partners of the said restricted duety, and not only to concurr and assist them in the uplifting of the said restricted duety from their nighbours, but also to concurr and assist them, their collectors, deputes, and factors, in the uplifting of the said restricted duety from the said strangers whensoever they shall come within their bounds and libertyes; and farder obliedges them to delyver ane list and inventar of the haill ships pertaining to their burgh, containing the number and quantity of tunns contained in ilk ship, conforme whereunto the said partners and their forsaids shall uplift the said restricted duety dureing the tyme of the said patent. (185.)

Conservator suspended of his dues.

There being many complaints against Drummond, conservator, by severall merchands, and being summond to compeare befor the convention was contumacious, and that he had displeased them in maney particulars, therefor suspended the payment of his dues payable be merchands, and appoints severall burghs to deall with the secret councill for his deprivation, and ordaines letters to be written to the magistrats of Campheir that they would withdraw their concurrance from him. (189.)

Skippers, portage, charter party.

Statuts that there shall be ane express provision contained in ilk charter party that the master and skipper shall be answerable, and leist that himselfe and none of his company shall have any portage under a penalty as followes:— Forsaemeikleas the commissioners presently conveened, haveing taken to their consideration the evills arryising to the merchand estate be occasion of portage, which in many conventions hes been mentioned to have been remeaded, and finding the samen to grow rather then decrease, therefor the saids commissioners statuts and ordaines that no portage be allowed to no marriners hereafter, under the paine of 40 li. be masters, owners of ships; and to the effect the samen may be the better keeped and observed hereafter, the saids commissioners discharges all merchands from fraughting or hyreing of any ship in haill or in part but with this provision expressly to be contained in the charter party, that the master shall be obliedged and answerable that none of his company shall have any portage under the said paine of 40 lib. And ordaines ilk burgh to putt the said act to execution within their own bounds, and to intimat the same at their home comeing to their nighbours, and that none pretend ignorance; and declares that if the magistrate within burgh shall be found negligent in putting the same

to execution, the burgh found guilty to incurr the unlaw of ane j^{e} li. and the persone failyier to be found conveenable befor the burrows at the agents instance; and ilk burgh to report their diligence heirin to the next generall convention, under the paine of 20 li.; and this to be ane head of the next missive. (191.)

Skippers, portage, charter party.

Inrolls the town of Dingwall in the number of royall burrows. (196.)

Dingwall enrolled.

There being receaved from the factors of Campheir, for the use of the esteat, 15,000 li. worth of armes and amunition for defence of the countrie, the estate did think fitt because of the near relation betwixt the burrows and the factors that the burrows should be the first payers, and they to have repayment and retention of what publick dues shall be lay'd upon the burrows. (201.)

Buying of arms.

Presents one Muirhead to be reader at Campheir, intreating the session there to accept of him. (201.)

Reader, Campheir.

The committee of estates deposed the said Drummond from being conservator. (201.)

Drummond conservator deposed.

There being information that there was to be a league betwixt the esteats of Holland and our King, the burrows writt up to their commissioners at London that something may be insert in the league concerning the priviledges of this kingdome with ratification thereof in Zeland, and that the inhabitants in the Neatherlands may be restrained from fishing within our Scotts seas at least without kennings of land. (206.)

Dutch not to fish within Kenning of land in the Scots seas.

Statut anent transporting of staple goods to be transported by the staple port, and that under ane unlaw. (212.)

Staple goods.

The parliament being sett down, the convention resolved to meet a little anent the concernments of burrows that is to be agitat at parliament, as followes:— Forsaemeikle as the tyme of parliament does draw near, and that its necessary that the haill burrows conveen befor the down sitting thereof and for consulting of all things that may be incumbent to their esteat, therefor they ordaine the haill commissioners present to meet and conveen at the burgh of Edinburgh the 12th day of this instant, under the paine of 20 li. ilk burgh failzieing, to which the burrowes and most part of them conveenand the present commissioners grants full power and commission for treating and concluding of all such matters that may concerne the burrows, with power to them to conclude thereanent, with all means to procure the burrowes desyres in the same, ratifying and approveing whatsomever they shall doe thereanent, and obliedges them and their burghs to abyde at their conclusions, but any revocation; and in special they ordaine them to take to their consideration the new augmentation of the customes and new imposition upon wine, and to seek discharge thereof in all tyme comeing and in soe far as hes not been payed be any. Item, that all merchands, skippers, and mariners may be liberat of their oath anent their customes, contrair to the custome of all nations, and that noe reason can subject them both to searching and confiscation and to give oath. Item, anent the consergarie house and takeing course

LITHGOW, July 1641.

Grievances customs and imposition of wynes.

Merchants, oaths.

Conserjarie house.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

for giveing instructions to the keeper of the said house. Item, to give answer to all the articles sent be the lords of the committee of estates hither, and anent the first to show their lordships that they being very sensible of the manifold evills that this countrey is like to incure if some course be not taken for preventing of inbringing light ryalls and cardignes, and therefor to desyre their lordships that they would designe the weight of the saids pieces, which is 14 drop for the ryall and five for the cardigne, and that none pass under the said weight; with liberty to all to receave none of the saids species except of the weight above writtin, soe that it may be lawfull to the liedges to weigh the samen as they doe the gold; which gold if it had not been weighted this countrie had been in a pitifull caice; and the saids lordes to ordaine the pieces that are not of the weight forsaid to be brought into the mint house, and the Kings coine to be given for the samen according to the weight; and because the cardignes and ryalls are finer than the twelve pence, and that in such case his Majesty may be supplicat to quitt the coynage therefor, that their be ane moderat exchange betwixt merchands modifyed and that cheaper then England as to that which is present in France, which is one upon the hundred; as also that they find that the milling of money be discharged, and that all money be ordained to pass peill and tinsell and be troned, piece be piece; and for the transporting of dollars the burrows knowes no part whither the samen hes been transported except the east where the samen hes been tollerat. And for the second, anent the grievances against incendaries, the burrows appoints for them James Sword in St Andrews, John Brown in Edinburgh, John Kennedy in Aire, to think upon all the just grievances they can farder try against the incendiaries. And for the thrid the burrows are content to concurr and assist Thomas Cunninghame, att the earnest desire of the saids lords, upon the provisions and conditions presently agreed upon betwixt them and him, at more length sett down in another act of the present convention. And for the fourth, the burrowes having examined all present, they find the most part to have satisfied, but for the rest that hes not satisfyed they have promised immediately after their returne to Edinburgh to give satisfaction, and with all to remonstrat of the difficulties these of the countrie makes to give bond and desire them to take order heiranent. And anent the last, that the act anent the three hundred thousand pound sterling may be expede. And for the conserjarie house, the samen place is standing full, and untill such tyme as the samen be vaccand, they can not enter in ane consideration thereanent. And to pay what is past anent the demands of the burrows at the last sitting of the parliament; and to revise the samen that if any thing be brought derogatorie to their estate the samen may be amended. Item, to find out ane course how loading and louseing may be restricted to ports belonging to free burrows. Item, the usurpation of the burghs of barronie and regalities in makeing of burgesses and impeading of freemen to trade in their bounds; as also for takeing course for the prosecuting thereof and what shall be farder thought expedient. And ordaines the saids

Light ryalls and cardignes.

Anent incendaries, etc.

Anent 300,000 lib. ster.

Anent barronies and regalityes.

burghs to report their diligence heiranent to the next generall convention of burrows; and this to be ane head of the next missive. (214.)

Foraigne commodities.

Statuts that no burgesses shall buy any forraigne waire from ane unfreeman not burges of his Majesties free royall burrows, without the knowledge of the burgh to whom they belong, under such censure as shall please the burgh to inflict. (215.)

DUNDEE, July 1642.

Queensferry inrolled.

Enrolls and accepts South Queensferrie among the royal burrows.

Cunynghame, writts to be conservator.

Sir Patrick Drumond deposed from being conservator. Thomas Cunynghame wrote to the burrows that he might be permitted to exerce in his place.

Conservator, presentation.

The convention ordained consultation to be had with the most expert lawyers how farr the burrows may extend their power anent the premisses in not giveing offence to his Majesty or incroaching upon his prerogative; and also the saids commissioners, calling to mind how necessar it is that the place of conservator be at their own presentation, therefor ordaines severall commissioners to use all means possible for obtaining the burrows desire thereanent. (230.)

Grievances burrowes.

Several grievances thats complained upon be the burrowes that is craved to be rectifyed. (238.)

Losses sustained by ships and goods taken.

There is several ships taken, arreisted, and spoiled be the Kings ships in anno 1639 and 1640, the owners whereof seeks reparation. The convention recommends them to the committee of publick burdens to be payed out of the brotherly assistance from England.

Damnadge sustained by Scots ships in 1641.

In the treaty betwixt Scotland and England, in anno 1641, there was ordained 4,000 lib. sterling to be payed for the damnadge the Scots ships had sustained the forsaid tyme, and there is sett down ane particular accompt of the ships that sustained damnadge. (245.)

Patent for makeing of bricks.

There is ane patent given to one Tobaccos Knowes for making of bricks under several conditions, whereunto the conservator consents. (247.)

Opposes gift of general searchery.

There is ane patent of general search master granted to Mr John Drummond which the burrows finds very prejudiciall to their interest. (248.)

The said gift was stopped till the burrows was heard. (249.)

Commissions.

Statuts that the commissioners to parliament, convention of estates or burrows, shall be subscrived be the magistrats themselves, and be the clerk in name of their counsell, and the seall of cause shall be appendit thereto or be way of extract, under the subscription of their clerk and seall, and ordains all commissioners to be of the quality of merchand trafecquers, or at least hes been merchand trafecquers themselves, discharging all other persons of any other quality whatsomever to be chosen. (254.)

Tunn of goods 200 weight.

Statut that the ordinar weight of all heavie goods which are accompted mort charge the tunn thereof shall weigh 2,000 weight. (255.)

Act of strong waters.

There is ane act discharging the inbringing of strong waters. (*Ibid.*)

Dilligence anent unfreemen.

There is orders given to several burghs for useing dilligence anent unfreemen according to the division sett down here as followes :—

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Dilligence anent unfreemen.

Whereas the present commissioners finding that there is nothing occasions the encress of the unfree people throw the boundless liberty unfreemen takes to themselves in selling and furnishing the saids unfreemen with all kynd of waires, whereby they are enabled to sell out the same againe in open booths and in unfree places; for remead whereof they have statut and ordained that no burghs shall sell to any unfreeman any commodity, waire, or merchandize in gross, above the quantity of a back burden, under the paine of 40 li. *toties quoties*; and ordaines ilk commissioner present to intimat this act to their burgh at their home comeing, and the burgh to their nighbours that none pretend ignorance, and to putt the same to execution under the paine of 40 li. to be payed by the burgh neglecting the execution hereof, the one halfe to the dilater and the other halfe to the burrows; and ordaines the burgh to report their diligence in keeping and executing this act, under the paine of 20 li. ilk burgh, and this to be ane head of the next missive. (257.)

Unfreemen. Statuts that no freeman shall sell to unfreemen commodities or merchandize in gross above the quantity that one man can carry on his back. (257.)

Opposses patent of makeing of pipes. Ordaines that endeavours be used for the recalling of Mr Banks his patent of makeing tobacco pypes, and that the samen should be free. (259.)

Commission to Cunynghame. Commissionats one Cuninghame to doe all the affairs that the conservator used to doe, and this without prejudice of his Majesties right (260.)

Maister of conservarie house. Elects James Arnot to be maister of the conserjarie house at Campheir. (261.)

Given to Air 4000 merks. Grants the towne of Aire 4,000 merks for reparation of their harborie. (263).

Merchants of Glasgow, Aire. The convention annulls ane mutuall band betwixt the merchands of Glasgow whereby they associat themselves and bind themselves not to repaire to the wooll mercat of Aire, very prejudiciall to the said burgh by inhannsing the haill wooll to themselves. (265.)

Loss of ships in 1639 and 1640. There is sett down the particular soumes of money given to particular persons that had loss in the ships at England in annis 1639 and 1640. The samen is payed to them be John Ramsay who receaved the moneys frae Sir John Smith. (266.)

Pryce of coalls. There is ane act concerning the pryces of coalls relative to ane decreet of secret councill appointing of pryces for coalls. (270.)

Anent selling to unfreemen. Appoints the clerk to receave the complaint of burrows anent selling to unfreemen and to make the samen a head, &c., if the said burgh come and give in their complaint before the sending of the said missive. (273.)

Strangers, buying and selling. Ratifyes the former act ordaineing that noe burgesses buy from strangers without knowledge of the burgh. (276.)

Statut anent selling to unfreemen as followeth :—Anent the 24 act of the last general convention of burrows, holden at the burgh of Dumbarton, 27 July 1643, anent that statut prohibiting burgesses to sell to any unfreeman att any tyme above the quantity of that which any one may easily carrie on his back, as

at more length is contained in the said act; the present commissioners finding it ane very (*blank*) remead for restraining the increase of unfree people and unfree places, and therefor they ratifye and approve the said act in all heads, articles, and clauses thereof, with this declaration, addition, and explanation, that the meaning and sense of the burrowes in the said act is for restraining of unfree people from keeping of booths and chopes in unfree places and withdrawing of all trade from the freemen of this kingdome and free burghs royall whom the saids burgesses does furnish to the prejudice and hurt of the saids free burrows; and that the saids freemen does know the saids unfreemen to whom they sell to be such who debates were in unfree places and does furnish them of certain knowledge; and therefor did statute, and by thir presents of new statutes, that no burghs or freemen sell any goods above the quantity contained in the said act to any person who can not show their burges ticket, and especially to none other they know keep booths or chopes in unfree places, or debeat the samen again, under the paine of 40 li. *toties quoties*; and ordaines ilk commissioner present to intimat the samen of new to their burgh at their home comeing, and ilk burgh to their nighbours, under the paine of xl. lib.; and declares that whatsomever burgh shall be found negligent in executing this act they shall incurr the unlaw of 40 li. *toties quoties*, to be payed the ane halfe to the burrows and the other to the dilator; and ilk burgh to report their diligence heiranent to the next generall convention of burrows; and this to be ane head of the next missive. (277.)

Selling to unfreemen.

There is ane act of parliament anent coalls in anno 1644 which the convention appoints to be putt in execution. (280.)

Anent calls.

The burrows finds that the acts of parliament made in their favours are defective, not containing a liquid penalty, and appoints several burghs to obtaine confirmation the next parliament of the charter granted be King David together with ane liquidate penalty against the unfreemen transgressors. (280.)

Charter of King David.

There is ane act of parliament appointing Cunynghame to be conservator, whereupon the convention grants him his fees which areas followes:—Forsaemeikle as the esteats conveened in parliament holden att Edinburgh, 10 July last, hes made and constitut Thomas Cunynghame, sometime factor in Campheir, to be conservator of the priviledges of the Scots nation in the Low Countreyes as the act of parliament bears; lykeas the saids esteats be the said act and be ane letter recommendation direct to the present commissioners hes recommended to them the fees and duties of the said Thomas his place; and therefore the saids commissioners appoints for his honorable entertainment, during their will and pleasure allenarly, viz., of ilk seck of goods comeing to the Low Countries, of the merchand 12 stivers, and of the ship and master three stivers; item, of ilk hundred coalls, ten stivers; and this duety in full contentation of all that he can crave till farder course be taken thereanent; item, he shall have of ilk person for his first voyadge ane pound great; item, the conservator shall keep courts

Conservators dues.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

without a fee; item, his clerk shall have 20 stivers of every court and his officer 10; item, the conservator shall subject himselfe to all injunctions and instructions that it shall please the burrows in their generall or particular conventions to injoyn to him; and shall underlye, keep, and fullfill the samen; and ordaine the said impost granted to him to begin the first day of August next. (282.)

Conservator.

Conserjarie house.

Ordaines that the conserjarie house take 12 stivers for their ordinary and no more.

Advice of lawyers anent the priviledge of burrows which is observable.

There is an act makeing mention of the resolution of lawyers anent the weall of burrows and other particulars:—The commisioners of burrows presently conveened, for advyce taken with the lawyers anent the executing of the burrows priviledges, the confirming the charter granted be King David prosecuting the actions of Rhenfrew and Irwing, and anent the minuts of the sentences taken at the last generall convention, and anent the annulling of rights of common lands given be the burrows to their prejudice; it is resolved that by the act of parliament King James 6 chap. 152, that the burrows hes power be themselves, their commissioner, or collector, whom they have power to depute on that behalf, to search the goods of the saids unfreemen traffickers, to intromett therewith as escheat, and to delyver the one half thereof to his Highness thesaurers and the other halfe to the burgh whereof he is commissioner, whither within this realme or any part where the samen shall be challenged; and sicklike, to waken the process of Rhenfrew and Irwing; and for King Davids charter, there are a number of acts of parliament clearing the samen; and for the minuts, its thought fitt to remember the decreets already recovered whereby it may be showen that all that is craved is *in foro contradictorio;* and for the common lands, its thought fitt that reduction be craved of all rights upon the act of parliament James 4th and King James 6th; and, lastly, it is thought fitt that there be ane act of parliament procured declaring all alienations of common lands null, and ordaines the agent to produce his diligence to the next generall convention in prosecuting the actions against the saids unfreemen; and ilk burgh required to send their commissioners sufficiently instructed anent the makeing and setting of the lawes, discharging the setting out of the common lands; and this to be ane head of the next missive. (286.)

LANERK, 1645. Lithgow against Burrowstounness.

The burgh of Linlithgow produces a decreet of suspension against the inhabitants of Borrowstouness, ordaining them, conform to the act of parliament, to desist from using trade and usurping the priviledges of royall burrows. (298.)

Stent roll.

Commission for alteration of the stent roll. (300.)

Overtures, conservator, papists, covenanters.

There are severall articles proposed be the conservator to be resolved upon be the convention as followes:—Forsaemeikle as there being ane letter produced from Thomas Cunynghame, conservator, together with certain remonstrances which he offered to their consideration, which being advised, they have thought good that ilk burgh shall be required for sending their commissioners sufficiently instructed to

give answer to the articles following, viz.:—First, for setting down ane general law and order that all these that does not profess the true reformed religion or have not subscribed the covenant, or being desyred refuses, shall be debarred from useing the priviledges of the nation in the Low Countries. Item, that all factors, &c., repair to the church upon the Lords day and to the Lords Supper under the pains made and contained in the acts of befor thereanent. Item, that all merchands within this kingdom resorting to any port within the Low Countreyes shall transport their haill staple waire to the said port, under the paine of 100 li. ilk person, *toties quoties*. Item, that they produce their burgess tickets. Item, that they give up their names to the conservator. Item, that the saids factors wait upon the lousing and loading of the ships and skippers, and clerks to doe the lyke. Item, that all skippers comeing to the staple port to have ane charter party. Item, that the magistrates of Campheir be desired to suffer no malignant companies to be laid in garison dureing these unhappy troubles. Item, that the factors attend the conservator att all occasions. Item, if any question shall arise, that he decide the same. Item, where the caice is doubtful to acquaint the burrows. As also, the commissioners ordaines the burgh of Kirkaldie to produce to the next general convention Ninian Mudie for sending over with his sone to Rotterdam ane number of skins in the moneth of August last, under the paine of 40 li. And ordaines ilk burgh to acquaint their neighbours to observe the table at the consergarie house as is ordained of befor and the acts made thereanent, under the pains contained in the saids acts. As also the commissioners of burrowes, being informed that the new impost imposed upon all goods transported to and frae the Low Countryes is precisely exacted, therefore ordaines letters to be directed in their names to the present conservator, giveing him thanks for his advice and pains in their affairs, and to desire him that the estates there would discharge the impost to our natives, otherwayes to guard and convoy our ships comeing to and frae the Low Countries, and to desyre Campheir to take sick order with the common metster as they are bound to doe conforme to the contract betwixt the borrows and them; and this to be ane head of the next missive. (304.)

Factors, church.

Staple goods.

Burges ticketts.

Skippers.

Malignant companies.

Factors, conservator.

New impost in Low Countryes.

Statut that noe burges or freeman of any burgh royall louse or load their ships or merchandize or any port therof, make seal or mercat of the samen at any unfree place, or furnish the saids plaices with any merchandize under the paine of j^{c} li. (311.)

PERTH 1646. Loadneing at unfree places.

There is a severe act against those that transports staple goods by the staple port of Campheir as followes:—Forsaemeikle as the present commissioners understanding that their staple port is broken, to the heavie prejudice, &c., therefor and for remeid thereof ordaines and strictly prohibites and discharges that no masters of ships nor merchands within this kingdome transport any goods or waire by the staple under the paine of confiscation thereof, the one halfe to the party dilator and the other halfe to the use of the burrowes; and ordaines the con-

Staple port.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

servator to search for transported goods wheresoever he can apprehend the same within the 17 provinces and confiscat the samen as said is; and ordaines the said conservator if need beis to requyre the concurrence of the magistrats of these plaices and obtaine their authority thereto upon the expenses of the saids burrowes.

Staple port.

Names of transgressors.

And farder ordaines the conservator to take precise notice of all these persons who transports any commodity by the staple port and to report their names to the generall clerk of burrowes yearly, to the effect they may be cited to the first generall convention and give notice of the masters names of the ships that they may be conveened. And ordaines the generall clerk to report his dilligence thereanent in advertising of the conservator to the next generall convention. As also ordaines the clerk to wrytt hieranent both to the conservator and to the magistrats of Campheir, whereanent thir presents shall be to him ane sufficient warrand.

Stress of weather.

And farder declares if any merchand shall be necessitat, throw storme of weather or otherwayes, to transport his goods to any part within the Low Countries, by the said staple port, that he be obliedged to transport the waires to the said staple port; and if he failyie declares the said goods confiscable as said is.

Mortcharge, free of customs.

As also ordaines the clerk to wrytt to the magistrats of Campheir, desyreing them that if any Scots merchands shall happen to arrive within their bounds with any goods which are impute for mort-charge, that the said mort-charge be free of all customes, except they make seall thereof in these places; as also to wrytt to the conservator hereanent. And anent the goods belonging to Robert Alexander, arreasted be him, and to Charles M'Lean and William Hyndsh, merchands in Glasgow, anent the restoration of these goods in respect of the said act, whereanent thir presents shall be to him ane sufficient warrand; and this to be ane head of the next missive. (315.)

Thomson conjunct clerk.

Elects William Thomson conjunct clerk with Mr Alexander Guthrie. (318.)

Factors, declinator.

Several factors of Campheir gives in a declinator against the burrowes, which being a concernment ordaines to be ane head of the nixt missive.

Keeper of conserjarie house.

Elects Agnes Jackson, relict of one Arnot, to be keeper of the consergarie house at Campheir. (323.)

Act concerning factors.

Act concerning the factors of Campheir and their cautioners as followes:—The commissioners takeing to their consideration the great loss and prejudice which the haill burrowes of this kingdome hath heretofore sustained and are like dayly more and more to sustaine by such of their factors at Campheir, who aither by their own misguiding or other accidents fall in decay of their estates and soe becomes unable to give sufficient compt, reackoning, and payment to the merchands who trusted them with their estates, the which prejudice is chiefly by the neglect of the burrowes by not takeing head from tyme to tyme of the sufficiency of the saids factors their cautioners, and be not obliedging the saids factors to be lyable in their persons to the lawes of this kingdome provided against evill debtors, such as horning, poynding, and captione; for remead whereof, the saids

present commissioners ordaines that the saids haill factors, present and to come, shall enact themselves at the staple port of Campheir or wheresoever else they shall happen to be, to be lyable in their persons, means, and estates to the lawes of this kingdome, in the same manner as if they were here resideing in this kingdome; and for the saids merchands farder security, ordaines that ilk factor shall enact and oblidge himselfe that if the commissioners of burrows shall find their cautioners aither to be deceased or insufficient, that at the end of ilk three years they shall renew their suerties, being requyred thereto, and that the present factors be enacted for that effect presently to the conservator, and ordaines their clerk to wrytt thereanent to the conservator that he may immediately enact all the saids factors accordingly; and the said conservator and clerk to report their dilligence to the next general convention of burrowes.

Act concerning factors.

There is ane act concerning the unanimous votteing of the haill burrowes in parliament and committee of esteat in relation to the things that concerns the burrows. (335.)

Commissioners to be unanimous in their vote.

There is ane act dischargeing the factors to give in any declinators to the convention whensoever they shall be pursued before them upon any pretext whatsoever. (336.)

Factors declinator.

Admitts one Moor to be factor. (345.)

Moore, factor.

There is ane act ordaining the clerk to wrytt to Campheir and to show the great abuse in not observeing the articles agreed with Campheir which are broken upon their part.

Campheir.

There is ane act ratifyeing severall acts in favours of the conservator and containing several additions proposed be Cuninghame, conservator, for the good of the staple port, as followes:—The commissioners of burrowes, takeing to their consideration the remonstrance given in be the present conservator, showing the great prejudice the staple port hes sustaned throw the not putting to execution all acts and statutes made anent the staple port and mentinance of our libertyes thereat and increasing of merchand trade in the Low Countreyes, and therefor the present commissioners ratifyes and approves all former acts made to that effect and especially these acts made at the conventions after mentioned, viz., 1563, 1565, 1575, 1578, 1581, 1606, 1610, 1612 and in anno 1614, the tyme that Mr George Hacket and Sir Robert Denniestone were conservators, viz., Imprimis, ane act dischargeing all persons whatsomever from enjoying the liberty of the nation in the Low Countries, except such as professes the true religion presently professed. (2do) Ane act ordaining all such of the nation residing there to keep the kirk and communion. (3^{tio}) Ane act dischargeing all persons from exerciseing the office of factory at the said port but such as are lawfully admitted. (4to) That no factor take anothers merchandize over his head. (5to) That noe merchant or factor take his nighbours merchandize from him the tyme of their bargaining. (6to) That all cocquets be special. (7mo) That all merchands, factors, and skippers shall declare to the conservator upon oath they being

Staple port, articles ratifyed and enacted.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Staple port, articles ratifyed and enacted.

required, the proper owners of the goods contained in the cocquets. (8vo) That all staple waires pertaining to Scots merchants be brought to the staple port whither the samen be imbarqued in this kingdome or any part of England or any other kingdome. (9°) That noe goods be unloadned till first the cocquets be delyvered to the conservator. (10mo) That no skippers transport any women without sufficient testimonialls. (11°) That all skippers and merchands at their landing repair to the conservator or his lodging. (12°) That ilk merchand be honestly abulyied. (13°) That ilk merchand produce to the conservator sufficient declarations of their freedome. (14°) That no Scotsmen have recourse to any judges within the Low Countreyes but to the conservator. (15°) That ilk Scots man, warned, be obliedged to compear before the conservators court, lodging, or house. (16°) That no injury be done be noe persons to the conservator be word or deed. (17°) That no merchand, factor, or skipper appeall from the conservators judicatory. (18°) That none of the nation enter in plea or out of malice, nor compear before any judge of the Low Countreyes without the advyce of the conservator, and shall pay to the conservator for his compearance for him the charges allowed be the said act. (19°) That no Scotsman fight or draw blood of another. (20°) That all merchands that sells their waires, without ane factor, shall give up the quantity of his waire to the conservator and pay his dues before the breaking of bulk. (21°) That all securities be written be the conservators clerk, and all consignations of moneys be made in the conservatores hands. (22do) That every merchand and factor accompany the conservator upon solemn dayes and att burials. (23°) That none depart from the staple port without paying of the conservators dues. (24°) That the conservators officer for ane arreastment at any plaice except the staple port shall have ane crown for his pains. (25°) That any in the nation dyeing in the Low Countries his goods shall be delyvered to the conservator till his heirs, executors, or assigneyes appear. (26°) That the conservators debursements for the publick estate of merchands, or any particular person, be duely payed. And all these to be observed under the paines contained in the several above written acts.

Ratification of seuerall casualityes and dues belonging to the conservator.

There is a generall ratification also of particular dues payable to the conservator as followes: The commissioners of burrowes considering that beside the ordinar dues granted to Thomas Cunynghame, present conservator, and contained in his act of admission, there are several casualytes and duties belonging to the said plaice pertaineing to his predecessors be acts of parliament and burrowes of befor, which he would neither uplift be himselfe nor his collectors till he should have the same of new ratifyed to him be the saids burrowes, viz., from the merchand for ilk two tunn of wine comeing to the staple port six stivers, and from the skipper two, the lyke for ilk four tunn of salt, the lyke for ilk last of goods comeing from the easter seas; item, ilk last of corns 10 stivers, ilk last or sack of strangers goods from the skipper two stivers, frae ilk merchand comeing to the Low Countryes, not having with him or sent over befor him to the staple port that

year ane sack of goods, for ilk voyage five shilling Fleymes, for every factors admission ten pound Fleymis ; and generally all other bygone fees, casualytes, &c., formerly payed to other conservators, his predecessors, be any merchands, factors, skippers, or any belonging to the nation. Therefor the saids commissioners allowes and ratifyes to him the saids casualityes and dues since his admission to the said office and gives by himselfe or his collectors in his name to uplift the samen at his pleasure, and the refuser to pay the same to be lyeable to the paines contained in the several acts.

Ratification of seuerall casualityes and dues belonging to the conservator.

Statut anent payment of the conservators dues ; item, acts anent regulating of the staple port as followes : The commissioners of burrowes ordaines their clerk in their names to wrytt to ilk burgh requiring ilk person whose names are contained in ane list given up be the conservator and refuses to pay his dues to him or his collector owing them already, to pay the samen presently and in all tyme comeing under the paine of paying the double thereof, conforme to the act of burrowes made thereanent, and ilk burgh to intimat the same to their nighbours, and to cause arreast the skipper of such ships as belong to Burrowstounness and other unfree places whensoever they shall be apprehended within any of the royall burghs, ay and while they pay the double of the saids dues for their refusall. (343.)

Refusers of the conservators dues to pay the double.

The saids commissioners being likeways informed of the remonstrance given in be the said conservator of the necessity of some new acts to be made at the next general convention of burrowes for reforming of all former and avoiding of all future abuse at the said staple port and the better regulating of the samen, therefor the present commissioners ordaines ilk burgh to be required for sending their commissioners sufficiently instructed with their best advice to the next general convention to be holden at Bruntisland the first Tuesday of July next, with continuation of dayes, for setting down certain acts and statuts for that effect, and specially for takeing to their consideration the particulars following, sett down be the said conservator in his remonstrance, vizt., First, That all masters of ships be strictly bound and enacted to take no staple waire aboard but such as are directed to the staple port, and that he or they upon their arryveall at any other place within the Low Countreys shall be obleidged to find or send sufficient security for sending all the staple waires thither without delay or retaining any part thereof, and to report ane note or testificat, under the conservators hand, his depute or clerk, verifying the same, under the paine of 500 merks for every voyadge, at what tyme or place soever he or they shall happen to be intrapped or convicted. (2do) Thatt all merchands and burgesses within this kingdome be inhibited to ship or loaden any staple waires unto Dutch ships, or any other strangers vessells, but upon sufficient security given be them to the magistrats of the burgh where they reside that such goods are by them intendit and directed to no other place, and that they shall not be vented, offerred, nor sold but at the staple port, and to returne ane certificat thereof in manner, under the paine

Severall overtures anent staple port.

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

Severall overtures anent staple port.

and unlaw abovewritten. (3°) That upon complaint of the conservator or his deputes upon any merchand, skipper, or others who shall have broken the staple and escapes his hand and punishment in the Low Countreys, the party defender shall be cited before the burrows and there make present satisfaction for his fault to the rigour, and find sufficient caution and be referred back to the conservator. (4°) That all factors and merchands att the staple port be discharged from selling any staple wairs to any person or persons who shall have known to have bought or cause be bought for their use, directly or indirectly, any plaides, skins, hydes, cairseyes, or any other sort of Scots staple wairs at Rotterdam, Amsterdam, or any other place within the 17 provinces by the staple port, under the pain of xx lb. great Fleymes money for every tyme they shall transgress. (5°) That they be lykewayes inhibited under the pain forsaid to sell any staple wairs to any Dutch burgesses, merchands, or factors, to be lay'd up for their own use, or in commission, and for the use of any person or persons who shall be known to be ane trader and buyer of staple wairs in other places then at the staple port directly or indirectly. (6°) That some trustie person be ordained to take notice of the staple waires shipped at Lieth, especially of skins fast and louse, and that he or they delyver ane note under their hands to the skippers, specifyeing the number and mark of every cord of skins (especially such as are broken up) and of hydes and other staple wairs according to their quality, and that the skipper in absence of the said appointed person be strictly enjoyned to take no goods aboard, that so the multitude of pleyes may be avoyded at the staple port. (7°) That in case any goods be damnifyed and inlakeing in any ship, the factors or any party interested be injoyned to give notice thereof to the conservator within four days after the unloading of the said ship or else to have no action against the skipper. (8vo) That the factors be injoyned in their own person, their speciall servants in their absence, to attend the louseing and loading of the ships, and that the skippers and their clerks be tyed to doe the same. (9°) That no merchands or other servants, or any person whatsomever not being lawfully admitted, shall be suffered to play the factor in buying or selling of staple wairs, but what belongs to themselves, and for their own and masters proper accompt, to the end that the factors may the better attend upon their calling and not be constrained to play the merchand or shift otherwayes. (10°) That the factors be injoyned to meet at certain sett tymes, especially in October or February, or upon any sudden alteration for fear of change, in presence of the conservator to draw up ane common information twitching the pryces of all staple commodities and appearance of the mercat, that suae formally we may give notice and true advertisement to their merchands in tyme according to the said list and prescript to which they ought to be tyed under ane certain penalty, and not to be suffered to every one to wrytt of the estate of the mercatt at random, and often tymes much above the rate for drawing imployment to themselves, much to the prejudice of their merchands who afterwards finds the smart thereof. (11°) All skippers comeing to the staple port

Severall overtures anent staple port.

with staple wairs shall be injoyned to have ane formal charter party for the pryce of the conditional fraught, subscribed be ane competent number of his merchands fraughters, to the end that all questions aryseing ordinarly upon the different wryttings of merchands to their factors may be avoyded. (12o) That the skippers immediately at their arryveal at the staple port deliver their cocquets to the conservator or his clerk, to the end that the entryes in the custome house there of all staple wairs be made be the conservators clerk, and that noe other person or persons whatsomever be suffered to wrytt the samen, that soe all disorder and inconvenience aryseing therefrae may be prevented. (13°) That the merchands assignements upon their factors or their factors notes and promises for accompt of their merchands may be absolute payment to the merchands and indwellers in the Low Countreyes, especially at the said staple port and other towns within the Isle of Walker; and that all factors and merchands be inhibited to bargain with any in the said island that will not consent to the premisses. (14°) That the conservator grant noe warrants of arreastment upon any goods or money unless the arreaster find sufficient cautione to pursue his action in tyme comeing before the conservators court, or in case of failyie, or that after the process intented be heard and discussed he be found in the wrong, to pay all the cost, skaith, damadge, interest, and expenses of the party innocent. (15°) That some course be taken for preventing strangers ships to incroach upon our sea trade, especially those of the Low Countreys, who in regaird of their peace with Spain will ingross all to themselves with their great flotts and saill our ships quytt out of the waters, and therefore it is necessarie to raise some new duetyes and impositions upon all Dutch and other strangers ships comeing into or going from any port of this kingdome with any loadning whatsomever, to pay so much for every tunn according to their full burden, and such as loaden coall is to pay soe much beside every chalder. (16°) That no factor or other priviledged persons, residenters at the staple port, shall be cited to compear personally before the burrows at the instance of any party or indweller in Scotland, unless the party complainer have found and putt in sufficient caution and surety for all lawful charges of the party cited (at the discretion and modification of the burrowes) in case he be found innocent and absolved. (17°) To consider of the many inconveniencies and prejudices which must of necessity follow upon the late act of burrowes, whereby its ordained and declared that the factors and others of the nation at the staple port in all cases and matters whatsomever betwixt them and any subject shall be lyeable to compear and answer to any complaint before the burrowes, whom they are to acknowledge their only judges and not to declyne from them. (18°) To take to serious consideration the great discredite which redounds to our nation in general and how prejudiciall it is to all merchands, especially to young beginners, trafequers in the Low Countreyes, that after the deceass of such persons in this kingdome as are known responsall, yet their heirs and executors think no shame to defraud their creditors in the Netherlands and

APPENDIX I. Abstract of acts, 1631-49.

force them to ane composition and quyteing ane part of their soume before they enter in any payment, which great abuse and hatefull cheating most be in tyme looked into and crushed. (19°) To resolve upon the motion of the magistrats of Campheir concerning coalls and other commodities of this kingdom to be declared staple wairs, and to consider of the reasons *pro et contra*, mentioned in the missive letter to the burrowes thereanent in December 1645 years, and whether or not I shall cherish the said motion of the magistrats of Campheir concerning coalls and other commodityes of this kingdome. (20°) To take notice that three years since there was a cord of skins landed at Campheir, without any letter or commission to any factor at Campheir, wherefor I ordained Robert Grierson to receive and sell the samen and be comptable therefor untill such tyme as the right owner should appear, and I did give advertisement to the commissioners of burrowes in July 1645, but as yet there is none come to lay claim to the said cord or free money thereof, which amounts to three score pounds Fleymis, or thereabout; wherefor I desire the commissioners of the haill respective burrows to injoyne for the right proprietar thereof and examine him about the mark, number, tyme of shipping, and in what ship and what port they were loadned; and, upon certification, I shall cause the free money thereof to be payed or answered to him. (21°) To dispose of the halfe of threttie four pounds fifty shilling Fleymes money for the burrowes use seized upon be me in March last and detained under confiscation for a part of the pryce of certain staple goods sent to Rotterdam and sold be ane merchand of Edinburgh there. Which haill particulars abovewritten are remitted to the consideration of the general convention, and the clerk to report his diligence heiranent to the next general convention, and this to be ane head of the next missive. (343.)

Severall overtures anent staple port.

Endeavours for makeing salt a staple comodity.

There is a proposition made for makeing salt a staple commodity.

Factor.

Admitts Robert (*blank*) to be factor. (353.)

Harvie, broker.

The convention recommends one Harvie to the conservator to be admitted brocker at Campheir. (354.)

Conservators dues.

Ordains letters of horning to be raised against all those that refuses to pay the conservators dues. (357.)

Pension to Guthry.

Grants augmentation to Mr Alexander Guthrie of 500 merks, yearly, by and attour the former pension, and that for his faithfull and long service to the burrowes. (359.)

Commission anent Scots liberties in France.

There is ane ample commission granted to Coll. Thomsone for agenting the Scots libertyes in France. (360.)

Prayers.

Ordaines that there shall be only conceaved prayers said at meetings of conventions, and recommends to the severall burghs that conceaved prayers be only said at councill meetings of burghs. (363.)

Ker, clerk.

Master Andrew Kerr chosen clerk.

Brown agent upon Ramsayes dimission.

John Ramsay dimitts the agents place by dimission under his hand, whereupon William Brown is chosen. (363.)

No. II.

DECREET OF SET of the burgh of Inverness, ratified and confirmed by the 20th act of the General Convention, dated 5th July 1693. *See* p. 179. Set of Inverness, 1676.

The conventione, conforme to the twentieth act of this generall conventione impowering the clerk after dissolveing thereof to record the ratificatione and approbatione of the decreit of sett of the magistrats, gildrie and trades of the burgh of Inverness, which they heirby ratifie, approve, and confirme in all the heads, clauses, and articles therof, and of which decreit the tenor followes:—At Inverness the eleventh day of September j^m vj^c and seaventie six yeares, the decreet underwryttin, conform to the ordinance therein contained, is insert and registrat in the borrow books of Inverness, whereof the tenor followes:—At Inverness the second day of September j^m vj^c, seventie six yeares. Anent the act of the generall convention of burrowes, holdin at Edinburgh upon the seventh day of Jully j^m vj^c and seventie six yeares last by past by the commissioners of burrowes [the act printed in vol. III., pp. 662-4 is here narrated]. Conforme to the appoyntment of the said act they are mett and conveened at Inverness the severall commissioners of burrowes afternamed, upon the last day of August last by past, for takeing notice of and rectifying the differences betwixt the saides magistrats of the said burgh and others, to witt, Sir Patrick Threipland, provost of Perth, George Brown, provost of Dundee, Gilbert Mollisone, baillyie of Aberdeen, Alexander Miln, provost, Robert Rennald, provost of Monross, David Donaldsone, for the burgh of Brichen, Archibald Willsone, baillyie of Queensferry, Sir Robert Dunbar, provost of Forras, Rannald Bayn, late baillie of Dingwall, and Alexander Graham, provost of Fortrose, who being mett and conveened as said is, they for the more and ordourly procedure in the matter underwryttin have made and chosen Sir Patrick Threipland, provost of Perth, as preces in the said meeting, and the saids commissioners have nominat and chosen Mr Alexander Edward, wrytter in Edinburgh, as their clerk to serve them in their meeting; and alse haveing conveened and called before them the forsaids present magistrats, gildrie, and tradesmen, and haveing perused the counsell bookes and read over the contract or bond betwixt the present magistrats, gildrie and trades, and haveing heard the grevances and objectiones against one other *hinc inde*, and they being weell and ryply advised therwith, the saids commissioners with one consent and assent, conforme to the ordinance and act of burrowes of the date, tenor, and contents abovewrittin, doe for the peace and tranquility of the said burgh of Inverness, and for the amicable setleing of all differrences betwixt the present magistrats and gildrie and tradsmen in all tyme comeing, and for avoiding all striffe, debeat, or any ground of contention in all tyme heirafter,

APPENDIX II. Set of Inverness, 1676.

trades and take themselves to merchandizeing, they shall be admitted freemen of the gildrie, they payeing the ordinary dues of the gild brethren, and shal be capable of being elected either counsellers or magistrats of this burgh. And in respect that the great stents and impositiones and way of imposeing of the same hes bein of the great greivances of this place, therfore the saides commissioners have decerned and ordaines and hereby decernes and ordaines that it shall not [be laufull] to the magistrats or counsell to stent or impose taxationes upon the inhabitants of this place without ther own consent, or at least the most pairt thereof (except the stent imposed by publict authority); and in case ther be necessity for imposeing any stents upon the inhabitants of this burgh, then and in that caice the magistrats shall give notice to the inhabitants what is the cause of the samen by towk of drum, and of the tyme, place, and maner how the samen is to be imposeing, and for the more regular and equall way of imposeing the samen they ordaine that the magistrats and councell of this burgh shall nominat and elect fyfteen persones of best fame and repute within this place to be stent masters, who shall be holdin to give their oaths in presence of the councell *de fideli*, whereof eleven of the fyfteen shall be a quorum, who shall meet in the tolbooth of this place, and no persones to be suffered to be with them but one of the magistrats, and after the samen is imposed and collected the magistrats and councell of this place shall be obleidged to make it appear that the stent is bestowed and expendit to the ends for which it was imposed. And because it is informed to the saids commissioners that the towne is in debt in the soume of eight thousand marks or theirby, and that ther is no other way for payeing the samen but by imposeing the samen stents upon the inhabitants of the place, they doe seriously recomend to the inhabitants of the said burgh to concurr with the magistrats therof for stenting the neighbours in ordor to the payment of the said debt of the toun, and to levie and raise the said stents at such tymes as they may best doe with ther conveniencie. And, finallie, that no vestig or memorie be left of former differences, and for takeing away all grounds of dissentiones and divisiones in the place, the saids commissars ordaines all actiones and persuitts of law betwixt the present counsell, gildrie, and trades of this burgh, for whatsomeever cause or occatione, intentit or that might haue been intentit preceding the date heirof, to be simpliciter discharged and to be void and null in themselves in all time comeing, and all such proces to be cancelled and never insisted in hereafter; and ordaines the contract or bond betwixt the present counsell, gildrie, and trads to be presently distroyed and cancelled in ther presence. And in lyckmaner the saids commissioners wills and declaires that the aboue wryttin decreit in all points shall stand and contain ow unviolable unchanged in all time comeing, certifieing the breakers that the royall burrows will notice the breakers of the same, and punish them accordingly and state themselves as pairties against them. And the saids commissioners ordaines that thir presents shall stand in force in all tym comeing, and for the rule and government of the said burgh of Invernese, and that extracts shall be

given furth thereof be the said master Alexander Edward, clerk to the saids commissioners, and the samen to be als valid and effectuall as if the samen were subscribit be the said preses, and that the abouewryttin decreit is to be insert and registrat in the town court bookes of Inverness. In testimonie whereof, the principall is subscryved be the said Sir Patrick Threipland, preses, and be the said master Alexander Edward, clerk, and in name and at the desire of the remanent commissioners abovewryttin. Extracted by authority and comand forsaid, by me. *Sic subscribitur:* J. Threipland, preses, Alexander Edward, clerk.

No. III.

REGISTER containeing the State and Condition of every Burgh within the Kingdome of Scotland, in the year 1692.

[The following Reports were obtained in terms of instructions given by the General Convention on 14th July 1690 (act 23, p. 119), by a Committee on 26th November 1690 (act 8, p. 125), and by the General Convention on 9th July 1691 (act 8, p. 129). The Reports were submitted to the Convention on 14th July 1692 (act 27, pp. 160-3). By the act of the General Convention, dated 6th July 1699 (act 7, p. 264), the Reports were appointed to be recorded in the Register from which this Appendix is printed.]

INSTRUCTIONS *given be the* ROYALL BORROWS *to the* VISITORS, 9 July 1691.

Imprimis. That the visitors take ane exact accompt to be given in by the magistrats and toun clerk of everie particular burgh off ther comon good and debt upon oath and the magistrats and toun clerk to subscrive the same.

2. Item, that the magistrats and toun clerk produce ane exact accompt in the termes forsaid of all the mortifications belonging to the toun councill or gildry or trades therof, and that the saids visitors are to consider the mortificationes in soe far as they only are imployed to ease the burghs off publict burdens and taxes laid on the same.

3. Item, the visitors appoynted for the south royall borrowes of this kingdome that in ther circuts they call for the measours keept by Jedburgh to sie if they be conform to the standart.

4. Item, the visitors of the royall borrowes to take inquirie that when they come to the burghs of Stirling, Lithgow, Hadingtoune, Bamff, and (*blank*) burghs, whether the burgesses of these burghs lyes under ane absolut necessity of loading and unloading at unfree burghs, to the effect that if it appear that

APPENDIX III. they lye wnder ane impossibility to load and unload at unfrie ports that then they may have a particular dispensatione to load and unload at unfree ports.

REPORTS, 1692. Instruction to visitors.

5. Item, that the magistrats and toun clerk produce to the saids visitors the theasaurers accompts and equies fyve or more years backward upon the terms forsaid.

6. Item, in all burghs that they take exact tryall unto ther trade, both forraigne and inland, and particularly of the wines and of the vent and consumption of malt for fyve years backward.

7. Item, that they take exact accompt of what ships, barks, boats, and ferrie boats they have belonging to them, the names of the saides ships, ther burden, and value of each of them, and how imployed and by whom.

8. Item, they are also to take ane accompt of what ships they are owners of or pairtners in, out of ther own burghs als weell as in the same, and this to be given accompt of conform to ther oath of knowledge and how far they are concerned with the burghs of regalities and barronies in the matter of trade.

9. Item, that they take particular notice how far there cess are payed, whether out of ther comon good or by taxationes on ther burgh.

10. Item, to take ane exact accompt of ther ministers stipends, schoolmasters, precentars, and all other publict servants, what it is and how payed, whether out of any mortification or out of the towns comon good, or by taxation upon the people or teinds of the paroch.

11. Item, to take exact notice how ther publict works are mantained, and out of what fonds such as churches, hospitalls, bridges, harbours and the lyike.

12. Item, they are to take exact inspectione of the caice of the houses of the towne and how they are inhabited, and what rents they may be of, and of what rait houses inhabited by strangers are.

13. Item, to take ane exact accompt how many fairs and publict marcats each burgh hes yearly, and of how long endurance, and what the intrinsick value or importance the same may be of.

14. Item, that the visitors of the royall borrows in ther circut of visitation take information from the magistrats of the royall burghs of the state and condition of the regalities, barronies, and other unfree burghs within ther respective precints, as to ther trade, comon good, and condition of ther houses and inhabitants of the unfrie burghs, and that the saides informationes be given in by the saids magistrats to the visitors dureing the tyme they stay within ther burgh.

15. Item, that the visitors take ane exact accompt and tryall of everie thing els that occurs to them relaiting to the condition of the respective burghs whom they shall visite.

REPORTS.

BURGH OF EDINBURGH.

The Annwall Revenewes off the Good Towne of Edinburgh.

	MARKS.		MARKS.
Meall marcat . . .	1,600	Mark upon the pack to Edinburgh	450
Netherbow, Cowgait, and New ports	1,250	Mark upon the tun and pack to Leith	3,600
West port	1,800	Shoar dewes at Leith . .	7,700
Societie and Potteraw ports	1,200	Weighouses of Edinburgh and Leith	5,100
House of Moore . . .	2,000	Timber Bush . . .	1,200
Tallow trone . . .	110	Imposition on forraigne cloath	2,500
Flesh and cloath boards .	1,700	Annuity and seat rents .	20,300
Fish marcat . . .	870	Elleaven comon milns .	15,600
Corn and leather marcats .	450	Old imposition on wins .	37,850
Sheep flecks . . .	400	New imposition . . .	*14,750
Poultray and bread marcats	1,600		
Veal boards . . .	500		109,230
Shoad carts . . .	1,050		
Fruitte metts . . .	300		

	LIB.	S.	D.		LIB.	S.	D.
Societie . . .	2,333	6	8	South kirk inclosurs there	30	0	0
Grass of Grayfrier yeard	166	13	4	Gallow green . .	72	0	0
Fore Moore . .	60	0	0	Colledge and kirk rents	5,264	0	0
Back Moore . .	33	6	8	Few duties of Canongait, Leith and Portsburgh	700	0	0
Boningtoun milns .	933	6	8	Houses and chope rents	1,767	2	4
Borrow Loch . .	800	0	0	Silver deutie . .	81	0	0
Fleshers of Edinburgh	200	0	0				
South Links of Leith and house ther . .	203	6	8		85,464	11	9

Victwall rent, 307 bolls 1 firlott 2 pecks bear.

Edinburgh, the eighteen day of May j[m] vj[c] nynty tuo yeares. This is the trew list of the comon good given up, upon [oathe,] by us, undersubscriveing, to the best of our knowledge. *Sic subscribitur:* Ard. Mure, prefectus; John Robertson, baillie; Pat. Johnstoun, baillie; Michael Allan, d. gild; Henry Ferguson, theasurer; Ja. Rocheid, clerk.

* This item appears to have been excluded from the summation. The total would then amount to 109,130 merks, so that the figures are also erroneous in other respects. Similar instances of inaccuracy occur throughout the Register, and therefore it may be explained that in this print the summations, as well as the different items, are the same as in the MS.

APPENDIX III.
REPORTS, 1692.
EDINBURGH.

Accompt of the Ships of Leith the 17th May 1692.

SKIPPERS OF SHIPS.	BURDEN. TUNS.	VALUE.	SKIPPERS OF BARKS.	BURDEN. TUNS.	VALUE.
Captain James Kendall	90	8000	John Haigs . .	40	2000
Captain James Simson	120	5000	John Achinmutie .	36	1500
Alexander Tait .	150	8000	David Riehaye .	25	900
Robert Gray . .	100	6000	Charles Ranie, ane wark		
Thomas Whyt . .	90	6000	Thomas Hendersone .	25	900
Thomas Riddell .	100	3500	John Gair . .	16	500
Thomas Weir . .	90	3000	John Kay . .	12	300
Androw Simsone .	70	3000	John Sime . .	30	1000
Alexander Stivenson	130	5000	Gilbert Dick . .	20	600
James Sutherland .	90	6000	Walter Graige .	15	500
John Tait . .	60	4000	Mathew Barton .	24	900
James Law . .	90	6000	William Browne .	24	900
John Browne . .	140	8000	Malcolm Maccalla .	30	1200
SKIPPERS OF BARKS.			Alexander Gerve .	16	700
John Barr . .	40	1000	Walter Lesly . .	14	500
John Mill . .	15	300			

This is the trew list given in by me. *Sic subscribitur:* Walter Learmont, shor maister.

Accompt of Shiping belonging to the Merchants of Edinburgh for twelve moneths by past.

Kendalls ship twice to Holland, with lead ure and sheep skins.

Simpsons, trade twice to Holland with coalls and wooll.

Alexander Tait, twice to Holland with coalls, at present ane transact ship in France with Canon and Buchan.

Robert Gray, twice to Holland with coalls, sheep skins, and wooll.

Thomas Whyt, twice to Holland with coalls, sheep skins, and wooll.

Thomas Riddell, once to Hamburgh with returns of mumbear, some quantity of brandie, and once to France with returns of wyne.

Thomas Weir, twice to London with coalls and some packs of linnen cloath, quherof the most pairt belonged to Glasgow.

Andrew Simson to London, with coalls and some packs of linnen cloath, whereof the most pairt belonged to strangers, with some packs of drest leather belonging to merchants heir.

George Wood, twice to Holland with coalls and sheep skins.

Alexander Stevinsone, twice to Amsterdam with coalls.

James Sutherland, once to Hamburgh with returns of mumbear and some brandie, and now at Spain.

John Tait, imployed by the publict at Innerlochie.
James Law, once at London with shouldiers, being balanced with coalls.
John Brown, once to Bilbo and not yeit reteired.
Item, thrie Swades or Damask ships, in all thrie hunder tunns, with wynes from France.
Item, three ships belonging to the merchants all lost comeing from France with wynes.
Item, as to the consumption of malt, the same is computed to be about 500 bolls per week.
Item, to the trade with the barks the same is all inland trade with corns and coalls, except two barks who are at present in the Sound with herrings on the merchants accompt.

Edinburgh the [18] May 1692 yeares. The whilk day, the present magistrats of the good town of Edinburgh and their toun clerk, haveing mett with James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, John Mure, provost of Air, and Mr James Smalet, provost of Dumbartoun, commissionars appointed be the generall convention of royall borrowes holden at Edinburgh the eight day of Jully j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie one yeares, for visiteing the haill royall burghs of the kingdome of Scotland, they did give in ane accompt of the patrimonie and comon good of the good toun, with ane ansuer to the rest of the saids visitours instructions as follows :—

(1) As to the first article its answered that the comon good of the said burgh will extend *comunibus annis* to the sowme of eighty five thousand four hundreth and sexty four pownds elleaven shillings and nyne pennies, and that ther debts amounts to seaven hundreth seaventie one thousand Scots of principall soume.

(2) As to the second article its ansuered that they are not concerned therein.

(3) As to the third article, its answered that they have no mortifications that eases the burgh of any publict burthens but that they are applyed conform to the will of the respective mortifiers.

(4) As to the fourth article, it is ansuered that they are not concerned therein.

(5) As to the fyfth article, it is answered that the magistrats have produced to the saids visitors their theasaurers books for fyve preceding yeares.

(6) As to the sixth article, it is answered that the magistrats have given in a particular accompt to the saids visitors of their trade both forraigne and inland, as also what French wine, seck, brandie, and malt they vent and consume yearly.

(7) As to the seaventh article, it is answered that the saides magistrats have also given in a particular accompt to the saids visitors of what ships and barks they have belonging to them, ther burden, value, how imployed and by whom.

(8) As to the eight article, it is answered that the saids magistrats shall at the nixt convention of borrowes give in a particular answer by ther commissioner to that article.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. EDINBURGH.

(9) As to the nynth article it is answered that ther cess is payed by tax on ther inhabitants.

(10, 11) As to the tenth and elleaventh articles, it is answered that all contained in these articles are mantained and supported out of the comon good.

(12) As to the twelfth article, it is answered that the saids magistrats have given in a particular accompt of the rentall and conditione of ther houses in a peaper.

(13) As to the thretteenth, it is answered that they have two yearly fairs, the emoluments whereof are given to ther officers, and that each are of eight dayes containwance, and one weekly marcat.

(14) As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have the burghs of barronie and regalitys followeing, viz., Dalkeith, Musleburgh and Fisheraw, whose trade is nottourly knowen, but Dalkeith is supposed to have more than the other two.

BURGH OF PERTH.

PERTH.

Accompt of Charge and Dischairge of the comon good of the burgh of Perth, given up be the magistrats and toun clerk therof to the visitors of the royall borrows, in obedience to the act of borrowes the ninth Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie one years.

Charge.

	£	s.	d.
Imprimis, the four ports of the town and bridge of Earn, yearly 2500 lib. Scots, inde breviter	2,500	0	0
Item, the four milns, tuo Inches and fishings	3,300	0	0
Item, the weyhouse, pynorie and pecks, postmastership, anchorage, cess boll, fish and flesh boords	800	0	0
Item, the comon mure	66	13	4
Item, of fearm and teynd bolls twenty four chalder, nyne bolls, two firlotts, three pecks, att 100 marks per chalder is	1,640	14	0
Summa, charge	8,307	7	4
Which £8307, 7s. 4d. of charge being compared with the £9346, 0s. 6d. of dischairge, declare the dischairge exceeds the charge in	1,038	13	2

Discharge.

Imprimis, paid to ther ministers yearly of silver stipend 1300 lib. and eight chalders of victwall at 100 marks per chalder, inde in all	1,833	6	8
Item, to the schoolmaster, doctor and precenter	538	13	4

	£	s.	d.
Item, the annual rent of the principall soume of 81,862 marks 6s. 8d. resting be the toun to ther creditors is . .	3,274	0	6
Item, of yearly pensions to advocats, agents, toune clerk, fischall, post, and others	500	0	0
Item, for the eique, borrow dewes, and commissionars chairges to parliament and borrowes	800	0	0
Item, to the four officers, drummer, pyper, for ther cloathes and yeirly sallarie	400	0	0
Item, debursed for publict works	1,400	0	0
Item of contingent chairges be the magistrats yeirly . .	600	0	0
Summa discharge	9,346	0	6

Perth the twenty one day of August j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie one yeares. The verity of the accompt of charge and discharge of the comon good of the burgh of Perth respective above wryttine is attested, conform to act of borrows, by us the magistrats and clerk undersubscryveing. *Sic subscribitur:* G. Oliphant, provost; James Cree, baillie; D. Monteith, baillie; Alex. Hay, baillie; Walter Fechney, bailly; Ja. Oliphant, clerk.

Accompt of the regalities, barronies, and other unfree places within the shireffdome of Perth, given up be the magistrats of Perth to the visitors of the royall borrowes, in obedience to ther fourteen act, the nynth day of Jully j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie one years.

	LIB.
The regality of Aberneathie, of trade yearly . . .	4,000
The barrony of Forgundenij	1,000
The barronie and toune of Donying	4,000
The burgh of barronie of Ochterairdour	1,000
The burgh of barronie of Blackfoord	500
Regality and city of Dumblane	8,000
The stewartry and city of Doune	8,000
The towne of Muthill	1,000
The stewartrie and towne of Creiff	6,000
The towne of Foulis Wester	1,000
The toune of Killine	1,000
The toune of Kenmore	1,000
The towne and regality of Logerate	2,000
The city of Dunkeld	12,000
The burgh of regality of Ochtergaven	1,000
The towne of Meikleour	[500]
The regality of Coupar of Angus	8,000
The towne of Elioth	4,000

	LIB.
The towne of Kinrossie	500
The towne of Migle	1,000
The toun of Arroll	2,000
The toun of Longforgund	1,000
The toun of Scoone	1,000
The burgh of barrony of Bridgend of Tay	1,000
Summa	70,500

Accompt of the other losses the burgh off Perth hes sustained of lait by and attour ther loss of trade by the forsaides regalities, barronies, and other unfree places within ther precincts.

	LIB.
Imprimis. In March 1676 the most considerable burgesses of the burgh being persewed befor the lords of privie councill by Sir Patrick Thriepland, ther lait provost, for outing of him from his provostship, they were fynet and put to the expences of at least .	20,000
Item. In anno 1679 such of the inhabitants as then inclyned to incouradge trade at the place haveing caused build ane new ship at Rotterdam, called the Eagle of Perth, and haveing bestowed upon her and her loadening to the value of 20,000 lib., all was cast away both ship and goodes at Taymouth in her first voyadge homeward, inde	20,000
Item. In anno 1681 the inhabitants, for ther farder incouradgement of trade, haveing again caused build ane other new ship at Leith, called the Eagle of Perth, and after two or thrie voyadges made therwith the owners therof haveing loadening her to Holland, George Fergusone, ther skipper therof, runne away with her and her loadening and never returned from Virginia again, to the value at least of	10,000
Item. Since the merchants of this place had ane shipe fraughted with Hollands goodes comeing from Rotterdam to Perth, and by ane stress of weather was driven in and sunk at Cockkenzie, wherby the merchants sustained of loss at least to the value of . .	4,000
Item. Their rests to the towne and inhabitants therof by ther Majesties forces in annis 1689 and 1690 upwards of eighteen thousand marks, conform to the particular verified accompts therof given to the lords of privie councill, and wherof as yeit ther is no allowance nor payment made nor granted, inde . . .	12,000

And this by and attour many other accidentall losses sustained by the burgesses, and the many and sewerall ruinous lands and decayed houses within the said burgh of Perth, and which the magistrats of Perth heirby recomends seriously

to the visitors and intreats that they may make report thereof and of the forsaids losses to the first meeting of the royall borrowes that at least this burgh may be eased of ther taxt roll.

BURGH OF DUNDIE.

Charge.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, the towns milns, yearly	722	0	0
Item, the pettie customs, yearly	940	0	0
Item, the flesh and fish stocks, yearly	80	0	0
Item, the postmastership, yearly	36	0	0
Item, a years rent of the anchoradge and shoresilver	80	0	0
Item, a years of the ten pennies on ilk stipend of malt	26	13	4
Item, a years rent of the salmond fishing	180	0	0
Item, a years of the midding lairs at the east and west ports	18	0	0
Item, a years rent of lim potts and grass at the east port	3	8	8
Item, a years rent of the pack hous and pack hous yeard	500	0	0
Item, a years rent of the hacksters stands	10	0	0
Item, a years rent of the viccaradge	60	0	0
Item, a years rent of the flesh shambles	120	0	0
Item, the few duty of the Balgayes salmond fishing	4	0	0
Item, the few duty of the booth under the tolbooth and behind it	40	0	0
Item, the few duty of Mr Auchinleks yeard	8	0	0
Item, a years few rent of Androw Nicolls hous at the east port	8	0	0
Item, payed yearly to the toun for the head rowmes	5	12	0
Item, the pettie impost of wyne	50	0	0
Item, a years rent of the lands of Logie	457	18	0
Item, a few duty out of David Scot in Balhungie his shop	1	10	0

Discharge.

Imprimis, resting be the toun of Dundie to severall persons by bond, the sowme of 38,253 li., which payes of annual rent yearly	2,295	3	8
Payed to the laird of Fentrie of few duty yearly	100	0	0
Payed to the parson for his house rent	100	0	0
To the towns two stipendarie ministers	1,566	13	4
To the clerk deput, advocat, his servant, postmaster of Edinburgh, and other officers	286	0	0
To the master of the grammar school his two doctors and janitor	366	13	4
To the knocksmith of fie	91	0	0
To the precenter	20	0	0

	LIB.	S.	D.
To St Leonards colledge for tuo bursars . . .	144	0	0
To the gild officer, toun officers, drumer, pyper, and ther cloathes	587	0	0
To the hospitalls maister for the grass above and beneath St Francis well	42	6	8
To the kirk theasaurer for a years rent of a booth . .	24	0	0
To a few duty to the poor out of the grammar schooll .	2	13	0
To a few duty to the laird of Lundie 5 lib. and to John Peirsons airs 2 lib. 10s., inde :	7	10	0
To eique monie	147	0	0
To the writing master	133	6	8
To a ground anwall out of the castell milns . .	13	6	8
Item, commissioners expences to the generall convention of borrows yeirly	120	0	0
Item, of borrow dewes the last year . . .	251	12	0
Item, commissioners expences to the particular convention of borrows			
Item, commissionars expences to the parliament . .			
Item, for mantaining the honour of the good town in waiting on noblemen and others in whom the burgh is concerned .	1,200	0	0
Item, to a few duty out of the touns milns to the Earle of Lauderdaile	66	13	4

This above accompt, being the chairge of the comon good of the said toun and the other padge being ther dischairge, is the just and trew accompt of the condition of the said burgh, given up by the magistrats and town clark upon oath to the visitors appointed by the royall borrowes for that effect, and is subscribit by the saids magistrats and clerk day and place forsaid ; and the magistrats doe declaire that the brewars haveing considered the low condition of the burgh and the increasing of ther debts by reasone of the extraordinarie emergents, the brewars have in October last granted a voluntarie contributione and impositione to be payed be them to the toun of ten shillings Scots upon each boll malt for support of the burgh which is only to continow dureing the brewars pleasours. *Sic subscribitur :* Ja. Fletcher, provost ; John Scot, baillie ; Patrick Yeaman, baillie ; William Watsone, baillie ; Ja. Wedderburn.

Ane accompt of the masters of ships names and ther burden of ther veshells belonging to the burgh of Dundie.

	TUNNS.	VALUE.		TUNNS.	VALUE.
Alexander Wedderburne, his ship . .	200	800	Thomas Abercrombie, his ship . . .	90	300
John Marr, his ship .	100	400	Androw Smitton, his ship	80	200

	TUNNS.	VALUE.		TUNNS.	VALUE.
John Reid, his ship .	60	150	The old bark belonging to him . . .	30	80
David Ramsay, his ship	60	50	James Burgh, his ship	60	100
William Fairweather, his ship . . .	50	150	David Machan, his ship	35	50
William Donaldsone, his ship . . .	40	50	Patrick Gray, his ship	30	50
William Watt, his ship	50	100	Thomas Ross, his bark	24	40
Alexander Duncan, his ship	36	80	William Lyell, his bark	24	50
John Donaldsone, his ship	36	80	George Patersone, his bark	16	30
Robert Rankine, his new ship	50	120	John Ramsay, his bark	10	20
			William Buck, his bark	10	20

NOTE of burghs of barronie and regality to the burgh of Dundie.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, the Hill of Dundie trads to the value of . .	10,000	0	0
Item, the Ferrie Partancraigs, in passage boats, shiping and trade	20,000	0	0
Item, the towne of North Ferrie	4,000	0	0
Item, Munyfuith, Barrie, and Panbryd . . .	6,000	0	0
Item, Glamous trades to the value of . . .	2,000	0	0
Item, Kerremure trades to the value of . . .	10,000	0	0
Item, Alyth trades to the value of . . .	15,000	0	0
Coupar of Angus trades to the value of . . .	20,000	0	0
Miglie and Newtyle	2,000	0	0
Forgan and Ballegerno	3,000	0	0
Erroll	8,000	0	0

Note of the touns losses.

At law with my Lord Lauderdale for 7 years . .	20,000	0	0
For building and rebuilding the bulworks of the toun .	20,333	6	8
Item, for cutting the loch of Lundy for water to the milns .	333	6	8
James Davis ship and loadening lost at sea to the value of .	5,000	0	0
Robert Rankine ship, called the Concord, and goodes to the value of	20,000	0	0
Ane other ship and goodes belonging to the said Robert lost sex years thereafter	15,000	0	0
Item, another ship of his strandit at Aberdeen lost . .	4,000	0	0
Thomas Patersone ship and goods lost, valued at . .	6,000	0	0
George Adamsons ship lost	4,000	0	0
Alexander Wedderburns ship with a burdean and loading .	5,000	0	0
John Frasers [ship] and goodes lost to the value of . .	6,000	0	0
William Watts crear	4,000	0	0
Robert Smith loadened from the Lewes . . .	2,000	0	0

APPENDIX III.

Accompt of expences be the toun in fortifieing the same.

RENTONS, 1692. DUMBAR.

	lib.	s.	d.
Imprimis, deburssed be James Bonar, theasaurer, per accounts and precepts	3,092	19	5
Item, to William Dumbar for express	68	19	0
Item, payed to him by James Lyon for express	104	0	0
Item, to bailly Blair for powder	165	0	0
Item, for 16 muskets to Robert Watsone	46	8	0
Item, for candle to guards	166	4	2
Item, for dressing the touns armes	66	13	4
Item, to John Robertson for 20 fyrelocks at 6 lib. per peice	120	0	0
Item, to Mr Hugh Safely for attending the gunns	29	0	0
Item, to measons for repairing the tolbooth and ports	439	0	0
To Thomas Doig for a pair of wheells to the great guns	19	0	0
To John Wardroper for oil to the carriadges	8	4	0
To John Ferrier for lead as per accompt	6	19	0
To severall other persons for small necessars for the gunns	7	17	0
For powder to severall persons	42	18	0
To James Yeaman and John Reid for powder	42	10	0
For mantaineing some wounded men after Ranrory	37	4	0
Paid at London for powder, ball, match, and shools, 68 lib. 5s. 7d. sterling	819	7	0
To Joseph Smitoun for ther fraught from London	57	13	4
To John Reid for timber and others paid by James Lyone	95	10	0
Paid by Androw Smitoun for the guards express and fortificationes	866	4	0
To bailly Scrymsour for ball	25	0	0
For the provost and Baillie Douncan, ther express in going to London in January 1689, for presenting the greivances of the burgh to his Majestie	1,626	0	0

ABERDEEN.

BURGH OF ABERDEEN.

Ane accompt of state of Aberdeen as it is given up the (*blank*) day of September 1691 to the commissionars appointed by the royall burrowes by the magistrats and toune clerk of the said burgh.

Debitor.

The few duties of the said burgh, as per accompt	711	8	10
To the tack duty of the touns milns	800	0	0
To the tack duty of the packhouse and weighouse	700	0	0
To the tack duty of the pettie customes	390	13	4
To tackduty of bell customes	800	0	0

	LIB.	S.	D.
To tack duty of the flesh stands	103	6	8
To tack duty of small imposition on fleshes	80	0	0
To the duty of some shops under the tolbooth	32	0	0
To the duty of the dead hand bell	26	13	4
To mony receaved for mort cloaths	104	0	0
This is the comon good of the town	3,748	2	2
Imprimis the annual rent of 112,755 lib. 9s. of principall resting be the toune as per accompt	6,765	6	6
The debursements on the gild hospitall as by accompt yearly over and above what is mortified to them yeirly	180	6	8
To mony payed for the touns eiquie is	256	4	8
To the ministers stipends yearly	2,305	1	4
To the master of the musick schooll, yearly, is	266	13	4
To the precenter and reader in the new kirk, yearly	106	13	4
To mony paid for reading and saying of prayers is	86	13	4
To monie paid for reading and precenting in Fittie	40	0	0
To ane doctor for waiting on the sick poor	60	0	0
To our principall clerk of yearly sallarie	214	13	4
To our wnder clerk of sallarie	133	6	8
To our advocat ordinar of yeirly sallary at Edinburgh	133	6	8
To his servants is	11	12	0
To our touns consulter of sallary yearly	133	6	8
To our touns procurator and consulters servants	49	0	0
To our touns chamerlane of yearly sallary is	266	13	4
To our agent at Edinburgh yearly	133	6	8
To our touns officers yearly	100	0	0
To our toune clerks servants yearly	60	0	0
For ringing the tolbooth bells and attending the clocks	100	0	0
To the executioner and scourger yearly is	90	0	0
For ringing the kirk bells is	80	0	0
Summa of the forsaid yearly sallaries is	11,578	4	6

CASUALL DEBURSEMENTS.

Per mony to commissioner and assessor at parliament; to commissioner of borrowes; to advocats and writers in Edinburgh in the annwall affairs extraordinar; for maintaineing the calsies in and about the towne; debursed by the magistrats in goeing about the towns affairs; for intertaineing noblemen, gentlemen, and officers of the armie; for maintaine-

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. ABERDEEN.

ing the council house, tolbooth, and kirks and other publict houses; for port of letters and touns expresses; to our officers.

At Aberdeen, the eight September 1691 yeirs. The above accompt, being the charge of the rents of the toune of Aberdeen with the accompt on the other padge being the dischairge, is the just and trew accompt of the comon good and debts and conditione of the said burgh, given up by the magistrats and clerk upon oath to the visitors appointed by the royall borrowes for that effect, and the saids magistrats and clerk have subscrivet the samen day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* W. Cochrane, provost; John Moir, baillie; Al. Walker, baillie; Pat. Gellie, baillie; Walter Robertsone, baillie; John Moir, toune clerk.

It is to be minded since the imposition of ther malt was taken away they runn on yeirly in debts betuixt 7 or 8000 lib., which without some remead they are not able to subsist, and being interrogat by the visitors what method the magistrats and councill take for advancing the balance betuixt their charge and discharge, they give accompt that they are forced to intromett with the mortificatione monie to defray the present necessity and to support the government, haveing alreadie borrowed soe much that they can not have credit, and now their debts accumulatts to the hospitalls, and in a short tyme will swell soe high that the toune will be utterly ruined.

STIRLING.

BURGH OF STIRLING.

Stirling, the elleaventh day of May j[m] vj[c] and ninety two years, compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the convention of royall burrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be south and be west the rivar of Forth, the present magistrats and toun clerk of the said burgh of Stirling, and gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane ansuer to the saids visitors instructions as followes:—

1. As to the first article, its answered that ther comon good will amount to, *comunibus annis*, fyve thousand four hundred and fourty seaven pounds four shillings tuo pennies Scots, and that ther detts extends to 41,608 pound two shillinges eight pennies of principall soume.

2. As to the second article, its answered that they have no mortificationes but what is applyed for the gild and trade hospitalls and the poor of the burgh and does nowayes ease the same of publict burthens.

3. As to the third article, its answered that they are nowayes concerned therein, haveing Stirlingshire measour.

4. As to the fourth article, its ansuered that Alloway is there nearest and most convenient harbour for loading and unloading ships of any burthen, ther nearest royall burgh haveing a sea port is Queensferry, and that they are necessitat to bring ther goodes to ther harbour by lighters that draw not above 5 foot of water.

5. As to the fyfth article, its ansuered that they have produced ther

theasaurers bookes for fyve preceding years, and that the saids visitors have found by the saids bookes ther theasaurers to have been considerably supperexpended each year, and that ther eiquies with clerks and other dewes amounts to sexteen pound Scots which is annwally payed.

6. As to the sixt article, its answered that there forraigne trade of export and import will not exceed 20,000 markes of stock yearly but is within it, and that they have no Inland trade, and that the retaill of their shops is inconsiderable, not exceeding 10,000 marks yearly in the haill, and that they vent and retaill about ten tunns of French wine yearly, including seck and brandie, and that they vent and consume ane hundreth bolls malt weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is ansuered that they have two galliots belonging to them, about threty tunn a peice and 1000 marks each of value, which are for the most pairt imployed by others, and that they have no other ships, barks, or boats, belonging to them.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are neither owners nor pairtners of any ships, barks, or boats belonging either to burghs of regality or barrony, nor are they concerned in matters of trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, its answered that ther cess is payed by a mark on the boll of malt which also helps to defray other publict burthens.

10. As to the tenth article, its ansuered that their first minister hes ane hundreth pownds, the second minister seaven hundreth marks, ther schoolmaster four hundreth marks, all out of the comon good, and that all other ther publict servants are payed out of the same.

11. As to the elleaventh article, its answered that all ther publict works (save ther hospitalls) are mantainit out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, that the most pairt of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective heretors, and that the rent of the best in the toune will not exceed 100 marks and the worst will be fourty shillinges.

13. As to the threteenth article, its answered that they have four yearly fairs, each of one dayes containwance, and a weekly marcat, the customes of all which are a pairt of ther common good as in ansuer to ther first article.

14. As to the fourteen article, it is answered that they have within ther shire and others adjacent the burghs of regality and barrony followeing, viz., Falkirk, Kilsyth, Bathlivie, Alloway, Downe, Dumblane and Airth, who have a considerable trade and are very prejudiciall to them. Ther houses are in a good conditione and sett at a better rate then many in ther burgh.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered ther are no soumes of mony resting to the towne, and ther fewes of houses, burgers admissions, &c., are a pairt of ther comon good. Ther bloodwitts are imployed for the magistrats particular use, and they have no cess bookes.

This is the true accompt of the state and condition of the burgh of Stirling, in answer to the abovewryttin instructions, as it is given up upon oath by the

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. STIRLING.

magistratis and toune clerk undersubscryveing to the best of ther knowledge to the saids visitors day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* John Harley, baillie; Thos. Wordie, baillie; D. Moir, baillie; Ja. Norie, clerk.

Nota. It is to be remembered that ther is twentie three thousand two hundreth thirty and three powndes six shillings eight pennies due be them to ther hospitallis. The annual rentis therof hes not been payed since the 1680 yeir.

BURGH OF LITHGOW.

LINLITHGOW.

The twelth day of May j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two yeares, compeired before James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionaris appointed be the convention of royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be south and west the river off Forth, the present magistratis and toun clerk of the said burgh of Linlithgow, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructionis as follows:—

1. As to the first article, its answered that ther comon good, *communibus annis*, will extend to two thousand and eight hundreth pounds Scots, and that their debts amount to 18,235 lib. 6s. 8d. of principall soume.

2. As to the second article, its answered that they have no mortificatione.

3. As the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therin.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that a certain number of the lords of councill and sessione, with sewerall skilfull and intelligent skippers, did visit ther own pairt of Blacknes belonging properly to them, and found the same alltogether unsufficient and unsecure, and which the saids visitors have lyckwayes seen and considered.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced ther theasaurers bookes for fyve proceeding years, and that the ballance of the last years accompt oweing be the theasaurer amounts to 187 lib. 14s. 6d., and that ther eiquies with clerks and other dewes amounts to 64 lib. 14s. 8d.

6. As to the sixt article, its answered that ther forraigne trade, both of export and import is very inconsiderable, and that they have no inland trade in gross except about 10,000 weight of tallow and 1600 or 1800 sheep skines or thereby, yearly, and that the retail they have by ther shopes they cannot positively condescend on, but against the nixt meeting of borrowes they shall inform themselves more particularly and give their report therof by ther commissioner to the convention, and that they have vented and consumed about tuo tunn of French wine, seck and brandie, yearly, these fyve years bygone, and that they consum about three scoir bolls of malt or therby weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, its answered that they have no ships, barks, boats, or ferrie boats belonging to them.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they have only five or six of

ther burgers and inhabitants that have interests in ships, and the masters therof are freemen and obleidged to reside with them conform to the act of borrowes; and these masters being examined upon oath by the saides magistratis whether or not they hade any unfreemen pairtners with them in these veshells, answered that they being surprized could not satisfie them therin at that tyme, but desired that they have four moneths tyme to consider on it, that if there were any unfreemen concerned with them they might take them of befor the term forsaid, and that they are not concerned in matter of trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cesses was payed formerly out of the impost on the malt, but since the discharge therof it has been still payed by a tax on the inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther first minister is payed out of the teynds of the parish, ther second minister by tax on ther inhabitants, and ther schoolmaster, precenter, and all other ther publick servants are payed out of ther comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that a part of there church and all ther other publick works are supported out of the comon good.

12. As to the 12 article, it is answered that the rents of ther houses will be tuixt 100 lib. and four pounds Scots, and that the most pairt of them are inhabited by ther respective heretors, and that they have few stranger inhabitants.

13. As to the threteenth article, it is answered that they have six yearly fairs of two dayes continwance each and a weekly marcat, the customes of all which are a pairt of ther comon good as in answer to the first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have within ther precinct and adjacent to them the burghs of barronies and regalities followeing, viz., Borrowstounes, Grangepanns, Kirklistowne, Torphichen and Bathgate, all which are highly prejudiciall to ther trade both outland and inland, particularly Borrowstounes and Grangepans whose houses are in a better conditione and sett at a higher rate then many of ther burgh, besides the great prejudice they have by a number of villages and kirktowns within ther precinct and adjacent to them, who wrong ther trade by venting aboundance of staple comodities to the countrey.

15. As to the fifteenth article, that ther fewes of lands and houses are reckoned with the rest of ther comon good, as also that ther burgers freedomes and ther fynes are inconsiderable and imployed for the publick use also, and there stent and cess is stented four shillinges monethly upon the twenty pownd of rent, and there trade is stented according to the discretione of sworne men, and that they put six shillinges monethly upon each twenty pownd land rent.

This is the true accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh of Linlithgow, in answer to the abovementioned instructions, as it is given up upon oath by the saides magistratis and toun clerk wndersubscryveing to the best of ther knowledge and surest information they can have to the saids visitors day and

dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Robert Trunbull, provost; Will. Heggins, baillie; J. Hunter, baillie; James Wawch, baillie; Robert Clerk, baillie; Geo. Inglis, clerk.

Burgh of St. Andrews.

St Andrews.

16 September 1691. The rentall of the patrimonie of the towne of St. Andrews, consisting pairtly of malt, bear, and ground anwalls, extends per annum to two thousand pownds Scots.

Accompt of what is payed yeirly out of the patrimony of St. Andrews.

Imprimis, to the minister for his stipend	866	13	4
Item, to the master of the gramar schooll	166	13	4
Item, to the precenter	53	6	8
Item, the provost and theasaurers sallaries	40	0	0
Item, payed to the archibishop, now to the King, for the teynd of the north and south haughs and for the few of the milns	120	0	0
Item, to the clerk commissions, his fie, and others	66	13	4
Item, misive dewes, equies, and commissionars charges	166	13	4
Item, to the drumer and officers for ther fie and cloaths	200	0	0
Item, repairing and keeping up the milns yearly, calsies, and other publict works	200	0	0
Item, for repairing and keeping up bridges, gramar schooll, kirk, and others	300	0	0
Item, the annual rent of the poors mony, conform to infeftment, the principall being 8000 merks	266	13	4
Item, the annualrent payable to the sea box	32	0	0
Item, the annualrent payable to John Mortons airs	32	0	0
Suma	2510	13	4

And all this besides extraordinary expences incident to the toune and at publict occationes, and besides the commissionars expences to parliament and sewerall other things, and besides what other debts are resting by the toun to sewerall persons which the present magistrats doe not yeit know.

At St Andrews the 16 September 1691. The forsaid accompt of the patrimony of the said citie of St Andrews, as it is given up in charge and discharge in maner abovewryttin, the charge being two thousand pounds Scots and the discharge being tuo thousand fyve hundreth and ten pownds thretteen shillings four pennies mony forsaid, is just and trew, and which is attestit by us wndersubscryvers, the present magistrats of the said city, day and place forsaid, upon oath. *Sic subscribitur:* James Smith, baillie; George Rymer, baillie; Alex. Ferrier, baillie; Will. Jack, clerk deput.

BURGH OF GLASGOW.

Glasgow the sixth day of May j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie two years. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl burghs royall be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats and toune clerk of the burgh of Glasgow, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructions as follows:

1$^{mo.}$ As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good will amount to, *comunibus annis*, to the sowme of sexteen thousand nyne hundreth and tuo pounds Scots, which is expended as in the 10th article and conform to a particular accompt given in by the saids magistrats, and that ther debts extends to ane hundreth and seaventy eight thousand eight hundreth pounds Scots principall and annua rents.

2$^{do.}$ As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes but what hath been mortified for the mantenance of poor people and children, and that the towne is nothing eased therby.

3$^{tio.}$ As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, its answered that they are not concerned therein, haveing a port of ther owne.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced ther thesaurers compt books for fyve preceeding years, which the saides visitors have at length considered, and that the ballance for the said fyve yeares makes them supperexpended in the sowme of fourteen hundreth threttie four pounds six shillinges seaven pennies, and that ther eiquies with clerks and other dewes extends to ane hundreth and fyfty pounds Scots which is anwally payed and mentioned in the accompt given in by themselves.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that ther forraigne trade of export and import, according to the exactest calculatione they can make, amounts yeirly to the value of two hundred and fyve thousand pownds Scots monie or therby, and that they cannot condescend upon any retailling inland trade they have by ther ships, the most pairt thereof being included in the export and import as aforesaid; and that they vent and retail about twenty tunns of French wine, twenty butts of seck, and about ten or twelve butts of brandy or thereby, yearly, but the consumption of ther wines is still less or more according as ther price is high or low, and that they vent and consume about a thousand bolls of malt monethly.

7. As to the seaventh article, its answered that they have fyfteen ships, whereof ther are eight lyeing in ther harbour and seaven abroad and eight lighters, whose burthen, value, how and by whom employed, is at length contained in a

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. GLASGOW.

peaper apairt given by the saids magistratss to the saides visitors, and have no other ships, barks, boats or ferrie boats belonging to them.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are owners and partners of four ships belonging to unfree burghs, whose burthen, value, how employed, is at length contained in the above mentioned peaper given in by themselves, and ther trade with unfree burghs is condescended upon in the same.

9. As to the ninth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a tax on ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther ministers, schoolmasters, and all other ther publict servants, are mantainit and payed out of ther comon good, which is at length containit in a peaper apairt given in, including also ther comon good as in answer to the first article.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are supported and maintained out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that by the decay of trade a great number and many of the best of ther houses are waste, yea that ther is near fyve hundreth houses standing waste and that those inhabited are fallen near a third pairt of the rent they payed formerly, and that ther best and worst will be betuixt ane hundreth pounds (whereof they have not eight inhabited by burgers) and four pounds Scots yearly, except some large taverns.

13. As to the threteenth article, it is answered that they have one yearly fair of fyve or six dayes containwance and three yearly marcats each of one dayes containwance, and a weekly marcat, and that the toun hath no benefit by them.

14. As to the fourteen article, it is answered that they have the burghs of regality and barronie followeing, viz., Hamiltoun, a considerable distance from the sea and soe hath no forraigne trade but a great inland, and most pairt therof from Borrowstouness, and is in a flourishing conditione ; item, Paisly hes a great inland trade and is in a very flourishing conditione ; item, Greenock hes a very great trade, both forraigne and inland, and particularlie prejudiciall to the trade of Glasgow and other places on the river of Clyde by buying portage from skippers and sailors to the value of the tenth pairt of the loadening, and for better effectwating therof they stock the samen out with comodities and goes half profeit with them ; item, Craufurdsdyk belonging to Craufurd of Craufurdsburne and his sone, two burgers and inhabitants of Glasgow,—it hath some trade in furnishing seamen with meat and drink. And that all these burghs are highly prejudiciall to ther trade, a mor particular accompt whereof they shall represent by ther commissioner to the nixt convention of burrows.

This is the trew accompt of the patrimony and comon good of the said burgh of Glasgow, together with the answer to the saids visitors instructions, as it is given up by the saids magistrats wnder subscryveing, who having used their best endeavours by conveening befor them seweralls of ther tradeing merchants best

known in the trade of the place, as also they have perused ther councill bookes and theasaurers accompt stated therin for sewerall yeirs bypast, which they have produced to the saids visitors for ther further information therin, the saids magistrats doe heirby declare that the forsaids answers to the saids visitors instructions is the neirest and trewest informatione they could receave and give of the state of the said burgh, as also ther toun clerk hes subscrived the same in soe far only as concerns ther comon good, debts, and debursements. Witness all subscriptions to thir presents, place and day forsaid. *Sic subscribitur*: James Peadie, provest; Wm. Cuming, baillie; Simone Tennen, baillie; G. Andersone, clerk.

The toune of Glasgow for its constant yearly expence:—

Debitor.

To the stipends of 5 of ther ordinarij ministers, each being at 1080 lib. yearly, is	5,400	0	0
To the stipend of the barronie minister	950	0	0
To the master and two doctors of the gramar schooll ther sallary	593	6	8
To the keeper of the toun cloacks yeirly	133	6	8
To few duty paid to the colledge of Glasgow yearly	166	13	4
To the tack duty of the teynds of the barronie	200	0	0
To the sallary of the precentars of the 4 churches	320	0	0
To the sallary of the keeper of the high church	133	6	8
To the few duty paid out of the aikers of the new greenes	66	13	4
To the touns quarter master his sallary	180	0	0
To the townes postmaster	120	0	0
To the doctor, cutter of the ston gravell	66	13	4
To James Porterfield, schoollmaster, of pension	52	0	0
To upholding of the great church and other churches	666	13	4
To coall and candle furnished to the toun guaird	800	0	0
To the master of works compt about the publick works of the toune	4,400	0	0
To the touns chirurgeon for the poor	133	6	8
To the toun drumers ther pension and cloaths	100	0	0
To the severall ringers of the touns bells	50	13	4
To the servants and keepers of the tolbooth	66	13	4
To the magistrats, theasaurer, master of works, &c., ther yearly fiall	165	0	0
To the clerk's servants yearly	180	0	0
To the officers ther cloaths and pensions	740	0	0
To the touns agent at Edinburgh his sallarie	100	0	0
To the yearly news letters and gazetts	60	0	0
To the touns eique and eique of Provand	180	0	0
	15,994	6	8

APPENDIX III.

REPORTS. 1692. GLASGOW.

The toun of Glasgow creditor by ther wholl comon good:—

By the duty of ther milns valued one year with another yeirly	5,333	6	8
By the duty of ther ladles	2,333	6	8
By the duty of ther pecks	566	13	4
By the deuty of ther tron	500	0	0
By the deuty of ther bridge	733	6	8
By the fourth pairt of the Gorball teynds	200	0	0
By ther walk milne			
By the drawen teynds about the toun	800	0	0
By the rent of the barronie of Provand	3,333	6	8
By ther 4th pairt of ther Gorball lands	666	13	4
By sewerall small ground anwalls	400	0	0
By their miln lands	133	6	8
By the rent of Petershill	66	13	4
By their comon lands	72	0	0
By their two greens yearly	1,000	0	0
By the flesh marcat	200	0	0
By the royall companies house free	180	0	0
By the correction house and yeard	50	0	0
By burges fynes yeirly one year with another	333	6	8
	16,902	0	0

Ther are lyckwayes some houses and sallaries at Port Glasgow, but by reason of the great decay of trade ther is nothing gott for them, yea not soe much as it cost the toun in upholding them. The forsaid expence is by and attour the many annuelrents they are obleidged to pay yearly for the vast sowmes they are indew, as lyckways over and above ther cesses and missive dewes of the burrowes, as also the support of the government; all which, with the contingent charges of pleyes and debats of law, amounts to a very great expence wnder which this poor place cannot subsist. *Sic subscribitur:* James Peadie, provost, G. Anderson, clerk.

Accompt of Ships belonging to the towne of Glasgow for the present at home:—

	BURDEN.	VALUE.
The James; Alexander Stewart, commander	100 tunns,	5000 merks
Elizabeth; John Millar, master	150 „	6000 lib.
Friendship; Archibald Yuill, master	80 „	4000 merks
Lark; Robert Galbraith, master	80 „	6000 lib.
Grissell; John Taillyer, master	30 „	2000 merks
Amity; Lott Gordon, master	80 „	6000 lib.
James; now bought be George Lockhart	160 „	6000 lib.
Fortoun; Hugh Campbell, lait master	50 „	2000 lib.

Ther are about eight lighters belonging to the toun, keeped for the most pairt by the merchants for ther own use and caricing coalls, wherof otherways they have no profit.

Accompt of shipps belonging to the toun of Glasgow for present abroad and are uncertain of ther home comeing because of the warr, and the owners declair they are content to take ther stocks imployed in the voyadges :—

The Concord, George Lyon, master . . .	150 tunns,	5000 lib.
James of Glasgow, James Wilson, master . .	80 „	1800 „
The James	36 „	1000 „
The William and Marie, belonging to George Lockhart and partners	36 „	1000 „
The Margaret, belonging to James Walkinshaw and partners, burden	50 „	1400 „
The Robert to Hugh Montgomerie . . .	70 „	2000 „
The small yaught to James Gibsone . .	30 „	1000 „

Accompt of some ships wherof some of the merchants of Glasgow have parts as followes :—

William Marshall, merchant in Glasgow, is a sixteen pairt owner of a ship of the burden of 150 tunns; Robert Williamsone, master, and freeman in the toun of Linlithgow.

John Leckie, merchant, is a twelth pairt owner of a ship of the burden of 150 tunns, being 28 years old, Edward Hodge, master, and freeman in Linlithgow.

George Hendersone, John Robertsone and Peter Napier, each of them are sexteen pairt owners of ane ship of 200 tunns, James Robiesone, master.

The John of Greenock, burden 130 tunns or thereby, valued at 8000 marks; the half whereof was laitlie bought by two merchants in Glasgow at ane roup, but they hearing of the lait act of the royall burrows dischairgeing ther haveing any partnership with unfreemen in shiping they stopt to be any farder concerned therein.

As to trade with unfreemen or unfree burghs there is ordinarily bought of the herrings exported by the merchants of Glasgow above two hunder lasts from Greenock men; as also the far greatest pairt of Hollands comodities brought to this towne from skippers, seamen, and others liveing at Borrowstounness, and other places upon that coast. *Sic subscribitur :* James Peadie, G. Andersone, clerk.

BURGH OF AIR.

Accompt of mortifications belonging to the burgh of Air :— AIR.

Imprimis, ane mortification granted by Queen Marii in the year j^{m} [v^{c}] and

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. AIR.

[lxvii] years of the milnes of Air, appointed for payment of ministers, schoolmasters, and others pious uses, and which is now sett by tack for 257 bolls meal and malt, and is of value, *communibus annis*, at fyve pownd per boll, which extends, yeirlie, to twelve hundreth and eighty fyve pownds Scots, 1,285 lib.

Accompt of rents belonging to the burgh of Air.

Imprimis, of petty small customes, extending *communibus annis*, to eight hundreth and sixty pownds	860	0	0
Item, for a walk milne yearly	60	0	0
Item, of supperplus teind belonging to the toun more then payes the first minister	127	0	8
Item, of rent furth of the barronie of Alloway yeirly nynty one bolls, and one 4th pairt bear and meall, at seaven mark per boll	424	13	4
Item, paid by the said barronie of monie	28	0	0
Item, of dry multurs payable out of the said barrony	146	13	4
Item, of few duty payable out of Feirs and Dalkeith, Castlehill, and Craisland	38	18	9
Item, of coble rent for fishing in the water of Air and Don, being some years uncertain	85	6	8
Summa	1770	12	0

Accompt how the mortifications on the other side.

Imprimis, to the second minister	666	13	4
Item, for his house rent	60	0	0
Item, to the master of the gramar schooll	200	0	0
Item, to the doctor of the said school of pension	100	0	0
Item, to the Scots schoolmaster of pension	52	0	0
Item, to him as precenter in the church	66	13	4
	1145	6	8
The ballance, being 139 lib. 13s. 4d. is yearly applyed and exhausted by maintaineing of schoolls, church, glass windows and others	139	13	4

Accompts of the rents on the other side how they are yearly applyed.

Imprimis, of pensions yearly to provost, baillies, &c.	56	13	4
Item, for the first minister his house rent	60	0	0

Item, of pension to the keeper of the knock . . .	48	0	0
Item, to our agent of yeirly pensione	33	6	8
Item, for the agents expences debursed in the touns affairs yeirly	100	0	0
Item, to the touns advocat of yeirly pension . . .	66	13	4
Item, for keeping the comon hills from sand . . .	66	13	4
Item, to the agent of the borrowes of sallary . . .	133	6	8
Item, to the lockman of pension and cloaths . . .	66	13	4
Item, the yearly annual rent of the sowme of 9000 merks dew to the deceast lieutenant generall Douglas . .	360	0	0
Item, the yearly annual rent of 600 marks dew to Mr William Rankin	24	0	0
Item, the yearly annual rent of the principall soume of 1350 lib. 14s. 4d. per bond to Ferguson, &c. . . .	81	0	0
Item, of expences debursed for maintainance of our harbour, &c.	460	0	0
Item, the commissionars fie to the convention of borrowes imputed yearly to be	200	0	0
Item, for the confirmation of our eiquie with the exchequer .	60	0	0
Suma totalis . .	1816	6	8

The above is by and attour the charges and expences off commissionars fies to parliament and particular conventiones and which is payed by the toune, and by and attour ane other considerable soume of debts which is not above particularized, but extends to the sowme of two thousand pounds, for which the towne is persewed. *Sic subscribitur:* Jo. Fergussone.

Accompt of the burgh of Air ther loss by forraigne trade within these few years.

Imprimis, ane veshell comeing from Bristoll, . .	18,000	0	0
Item, the James ship, burden 120 tunn, and cargo lost upon the coast of Carolina, value	13,333	0	0
William Deans ship in Irving, from Holland, loadened with Hollands goods value	14,000	0	0
Allasons veshell in Irving, loadened with Holland goods, value	9,000	0	0
The ship belonging to Allan of Queensferry, loadened with French goods, salt, and brandie . . .	15,000	0	0
The Swan, now bounded for the West Indies, of 14 tunn, ship and cargo lost, value	9,000	0	0
The ship called the Fortoun, 140 tunns, ship and cargo lost in February last	8,000	0	0

All these are but within these twenty or thretie years, fourty saill of ship

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. AIR.

wherein the toun were concerned lost. As also it is to be remembered that by the decay of trade and poverty of the inhabitants, the comon good being but mean and casuall, soe that therby the town does contract yeirly of debt. And particularly in the great and vast expences they are put to yearly in the upholding, beating, and repaireing of ther harbour, which are almost altogether ruinous, and before the key can be repaired will coast ten thousand marks, which the visitors hes seen, as also that ther are about ane hundreth and fourty waste houses besides sewerall ruinous houses and particularly tuo great tenements on each syde of the marcat cross both ruinous, one whereof are on each side of the streett.

This is the trew accompt of the patrimonie and comon good and state of the said burgh, which are given by the magistrats and toun clerk substitut undersubscriveing, at the said burgh of Air, the last day of Apryll j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two yeares. *Sic subscribitur:* John Osburne, provost, Hew Craufurd, baillie, Jo. Fergusone, clerk substitut.

Air, the thretteen day of Aprill j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty two years, compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissioners appointed be the convention of royal borrowes for visitieing the wholl royall borrowes be west and be south the river of Forth, the present magistrats and toun clerk of the said burgh of Air, who gave in a particular accompt of their patrimony and comon good in a peaper apairt, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructions as followes :—

1$^{mo.}$ To the first article it is answered that ther common good extends *communibus annis* to the sowme of 1770 lib. 12s. Scots, conform to the forsaid particular accompt given in and subscrivit by the saids magistrats, and that ther debts amounts to 7750 lib. 13s. 4d., conform to the forsaid particular accompt.

2$^{do.}$ As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortification belonging to them except that of the towns milns which was mortified be Queen Marie for maintainance of ther second minister, schoollmaster, and precenter, conform to the will of the mortifier.

3$^{tio.}$ To the third article, its answered that they are not concerned therin.

4. To the fourth article its answered that they are not concerned therein, having ane harbour of there owne.

5. To the fyfth article its answered that they have produced to the saids visitors ther theasaurers bookes for fyve preceding years which is stated in answer to the first article, and that ther eiquies with their clerks and other dewes will amount to fyve pownd sterling which is annwally payed when they are given in or called for.

6. To the sixt article it is answered that most of the forraign trade they have hade these fyve years bygone are the particulars followeing, viz., four fyfth pairts of the cargo of ane small veshell from Virginia of 70 tunn of burthen or thereby, the fourth pairt of which cargo was sold in Ingland by the master to whom it belonged. Item, three small veshells from Stockholme, with iron.

Item, twenty last of tarr and some few daills from Norway.
Item, about twenty tunns of French wine in another veshell.
Item, another with sexteen peice of canarie, the most pairt of which French wine is alreadie exported to Ireland and no apparent sale for the rest, but the most pairt of what is sold therof is vented to the countrey.
Item, ane other small veshell with suggar from the West Indies.

As also some small trade they have from Borrowstounness to Holland, and that ther inland trade consists for the most pairt of some skins, Galloway plaiden, and cloath they send to Holland, the value wherof they cannot particularly condescend on there trade, and that they have consumed about twelve hogsheads of wine or thereby these three years bygone, and that they consume and vent about two thousand bolls of malt, Air measour, yeirly, the occation it is soe small is the great decay of trade in that place.

7. To the seaventh article it is answered that they have no ships, barks, or boats belonging to them, save a little boat the value of fourty pownds Scots which belongs to one John Campbell.

8. To the eight article it is answered that they are not owners nor partners of any ships, barks or boats belonging either to burghs royall of regality or barrony nor are they concerned in trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a tax on the inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther first ministers stipend is payed out of the teynds, and that ther second minister, schoollmaster, and precenter are payed out of the forsaid mortified milns, and that all other ther publick servants are payed out of the comon good as is at more length condescended on in the particular accompt abovementioned.

11. As to the eleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publick works are maintainit and upholden out of the comone good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that a great pairt of ther houses are inhabited by their respective heretors and that the visitors have taken notice of the conditione of the same, and that the rent of ther best and worst will be tuixt fyfty and four pownds Scots yearly and that the rent of the wholl is computed to be about 3671 lib., eighteen shillings, Scots, yearly, and that they have few or non stranger inhabitants, and as to the rent of the wholl they cannot condescend certainly.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have tuo yearly fairs, each of tuo days containwance, the customes whereof are reckoned as a pairt of ther comon good in the answer to the first article, and that they will amount about four pownd yearly, and that they have one weekly marcat throughout the wholl year and another weekly marcat for cattell of six weeks containwance each year, and that the customes of this last will amount to about ten pownd sterling and is a pairt of ther comon good and also stated as aforsaid.

APPENDIX III.
REPORTS, 1692.
AIR.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have about ter burghs of regalitie and barronie within ther precinct which are very prejudicial to ther trade, a more exact accompt whereof their commissioner shall represent to the next convention.

15. As to the fifteenth article, it is answered that ther casualities are so inconsiderable and uncertain that they cannot condescend on them.

This is the true accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Air in answer to the abovementioned instructions, as it is given up on oath be the saides magistrats and toune clerk wndersubscrybeing to the saides visitors day and dait forsaid, and all this to the best of their knowledge. *Sic subscribitur:* Jo. Osburne, provost; Hew Craufurd, baillie; P. Fergusone, baillie; Jo. Fergusone, clerk substitut.

BURGH OF HADINGTOUNE.

HADINGTOUNE.

Hadingtoune the sexteenth day of April j^m^ vj^c^ and ninety tuo years, compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissioners appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl west and southerne borrowes, the present magistrats of the said burgh, who gave in the accompt of the patrimony and state of ther burgh as follows:—

1. Imprimis, as to the first article it is answered that the charge of ther comon good as it wes rouped at Martinmas last extended to 4461 lib. 6s. 8d. Scots, besides some other caswall dewes which the towne receaves at the admission of burgesses and ringing of ther great bell at burialls, which is commonly within 100 lib., and that ther debt at clearing of the last theasaurers accompt which wes upon the fourth day of Jully j^m^ vj^c^ and nyntie one years, did extend to the soume of 4546 lib. 13s. 4d. monie forsaid.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortifications belonging either to ther towne or gildrie.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that the towne is nowayes concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that the saides visitors have visited the harbour and considered the same, being called the harbour of Aberladie, and doe find that the same cannot be made navigable or a safe harbour without ane extraordinary expences which they are not capable, and suppose they were in a condition (as they are not) yeit they could not have water for bringing up ships of any burthen, and that the same is four miles distant from the said toune.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced to the saids visitors ther theasaurers bookes for fyve preceding years, by which it appears that ther comon good is lyck to be exhausted be ane considerable sowme by reason of the many publict works which hes fallen out to be done this year, such as the repairing the roof of the tolbooth, building of a new roof to the steeple, and covering the samen with lead, laying of new calsays in the publict streets of the

burgh, repairing of the common milns and paroch church, and doeing of sewerall which were all absolutely necesary to be done ; and as to the touns eiquies the samen are placed yearly in the theasaurers discharge of his intromissione with the touns comon good and is yearly 130 lib. by and attour the dewes payable for makeing therof which is yeirly 7 lib. 6s. Scots.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that none of the burges of Hadingtowne these fyve years backward hes hade any forraigne trade except three or four at most who hes some little inconsiderable trade in Inglish goodes and Hollands goodes, and which is maintained more by their credit then by any stock of their owne, and to evidence that ther trade is very small and inconsiderable none of ther import, at least very litle, is sold in haill saill but all retailled in ther owne shops and for goodes which was wont to be exported, being skin and hyde. There has been so few exported these fyve or four years they are not worth the nameing, they being about 2,000 or 3,000 skins yearly; and as to the inland trade of Scots comodities the samen is inconsiderable and not worth the noticeing, being only manadged by poor mean packmen ; and as to the trade and went of wyne, ther uses nor hes been non imported by the burgesses of Hadingtowne the space abovewrittin ; and as to the vent and retaill of wyne within the burgh these three years bygone the same according to the best information that can be hade does not exceed fyve or six tunns ; and as for the tuo or three years befor the samen would not exceed six or seaven tunn ; and as to the consumption of malt, conforme to the best informatione that can be hade from the collectors of the excyse and ther surveyors and the tacksmen of the touns comon milnes, will extend to weekly about fourtie bolls of malt.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships, barks, nor ferrie boats belonging to them, except one burges called John Mathie, master of the ship called the John of Prestounpans, betuixt 70 or 80 tuns, of value about 3000 lib. Scots, and who is but a late residenter and burges of this place.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered to the first pairt therof that they know non of ther burges to have any pairts of ships belonging to burghs of barronie or regality except one George Cockburn, who hath only a small pairt of a bark, belonging to Fisheraw. As to the second its answered that they know of none ther burges or inhabitants to have any trade with unfree burghs of regality or barronie.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that since the year 1685 there was paid yearly three moneths cess out of the comon good for easeing of the poor inhabitants, and from that tyme what was more then fyve moneths payed was payed out of the comon good, and that allwayes there was a pairt of that fyve moneths cess payed out of the comon good.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that the first minister of Hadingtowne hath payed him out of the comon good ane 100 lib. Scots yearly, of which

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. HADINGTOUNE.

they may have relieff out of the borrow aikers, and the rest of his stipend is payed out of the landwart parishes, and that the second minister hath 600 marks yearly payed him out of the comon good and the rest payed be the heretors of the landwart parishes, and that the master of the Gramar Schooll, presenter, and ther other publict servants, are all payed out of the comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works such as churches, bridges, &c., and all others belonging to them, are maintained and supported by the comon good.

12. As to the twelfth article, its answered that the most pairt of ther houses belongs to the particular heretors by whom they are possessed, and the valuation of the wholl houses and burrow roods will amount to tuixt 9 or 10,000 lib. Scots.

13. As to the thretteenth article, it is answered that they have two fairs yearly and that the same continows only for the space of two dayes albeit ther privieledges allowes them eight, and that the intrinsick and trew value therof is stated in their charge as a pairt of ther comon good.

14. As to the fourteen article, it is answered that Tranent, Prestounpans, Prestoun, Port Seatoun, Ormestoune, Dirletoune, Auldstocks, Stentone, Giffoord-hall, Penstoun and other places thereabouts, are burghs of barrony round about Haddingtoune, which are now more frequented and more buying and selling of goods therein then in Hadingtoun, and by which places the marcat and trade of Hadingtoun wes upholden, which decay of trade therin and publict burdens imposed therupon hes occasioned the decay and ruine of the towne and therfor ane ease of their taxt roll is desired; and all which is represented to the royall burrows.

This is the trew accompt of the conditione of the said burgh, given up upon oath to the saids two visitors and subscrived be the saids magistrats and toun clerk at Hadingtoun, the said sexteenth day of April j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie tuo years. *Sic subscribitur:* Ja. Lauder, pro.; Ri. Millar, baillie; Jo. Smith, clk.

BURGH OF DYSART.

DYSART.

Ane state of the condition of the burgh of Dyssart.

The said burgh being ane antient and flourishing burgh royall, bearing all portable chairges with the rest of the burrowes till the year of God 1644 and 1645 they came to decay by the intestine and unnaturall war against Montross where the most pairt of the skippers and traffiquers were killed and destroyed, and by their building and edifieing of ane harbour pertaineing to the said burgh they did borrow the soume of 15,000 marks at sewerall tymes from sewerall persons towards the building of the forsaid harbour and for payment of their publict cess, they paying ane considerable pairt of the stent roll beyond ther ability, and for defending and maintaineing of the touns propertie against the

Lord Sinclair and Sir James Cockburne, which is all yeit resting and eight or ten years annual rent therof, who for ther unability and want of magistrats for ane considerable tyme hes rendered the wholl comon good pertaineing to the said toune useless; and the emoluments of the harbour of the said burgh, which is the greatest pairt of the burghs comon good, is at present in the possession of the said Lord Sinclaire who possesses the same by ane decreit recovered at his instance against them surreptiously befor the lords of session, and all the comon good which the said toune is in possession of is the hand bell and pettie customes which extends to the sowme of three hundreth marks, out of which they have the second ministers stipend to pay yearly, extending to the soume of 450 marks, and to the schoolmaster yearly the soume of 115 marks, by and attour the fees of the publict servants of the place. And now the said burgh being altogether without trade, ther being no ships pertaineing to the place except two small doggars and ane other ship, the skipper wherof resides for the present in the place, but not one naill belonging to any burges within this burgh, by which it is evident what a poor and distressed conditione this poor place is in and how unable they are even to bear any ane verie small proportion of the stent roll, the tuo parts of the burgh being either unhabitat or ruinous; the verrity of which is too evident to all passengers and travellers.

Dyssart the eighteenth day of September 1691 years. This is the trew and just accompt charge and dischairge of the comon good of the said burgh, given up by the magistrats and toun clerk, upon oath, to the visitors appointed be the royall burrowes for that effect; and they have subscrivit the same, day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Alex. Suyne, D. Huttone, Wa. Pittillo, clk. Debtis, 10,000 lib.; comon good 200 lib.; cess and minister stipend payed by tax; no trade at all.

BURGH OF KIRKCALDY.

Ane accompt of the ships, ther value, names, burdens and masters, presently belonging to the burgh off Kirkcaldie in the moneth of Junij 1692.

David Philp, ane old bush, about 25 year old, burden 40 tuns, the wholl owners townsmen, value 1,000 marks.

David Williamsone, ane old dogger, about thirty year old, burden 45 tuns, the wholl owners townsmen, value 1,200 marks.

Thomas Bosewall, ane Holland pinck, 17 year old, burden 80 tuns, 9-sexteen parts belonging to the towne, value 3,000 marks.

William Tennent, ane pinck, 25 year old, burden 110 tuns, quherof three 16 pairts belongs to this toun, value 3,000 marks.

John Bosewall, named the Providence, square starned, 12 year old, burden 140 tunns, quherof elleaven 16 pairts and ane 32 pairt belongs to this towne, vallue 7,000.

James Black, square starned, 20 year old, burden 80 tuns, 12 sexteen pairts belonging to this towne, value 2,500 marks.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. KIRKCALDY.

William Broune, ane pinck, 20 year old, burden 70 tuns, all belonging to this toune, value 2,000 marks.

Angus Linckletter, ane fleeboat, 14 year old, 140 tuns, quherof elleaven sexteens belongs to this towne, value 6,000 marks.

Henry Millar, ane dogger, 10 year old, burden 120 tuns, 12 sexteen pairts belonging to this toune, value 4,500 marks.

John Durie, ane fleeboat, 17 year old, burden 110 tunns, all belonging to this toun, except ane fourth pairt, value 5,000 marks.

William Moncreiff ane catch, 25 year old, 40 tuns, 10 sexteen pairts belonging to this toune, value 1,500 marks.

Mathew Andersone, ane pinck, 20 year old, burden 100 tuns, quherof ten sexteen pairts belongs to this towne, value 3,000 marks.

John Millar, ane dogger, 25 year old, burden 80 tunns, quherof ten sexteen pairts belongs to this towne, value 3000 marks.

William Andersone, ane squar starned ship, 20 year old, 60 tunns, ane fourth pairt belonging to strangers, value 2,500 marks.

All imployed in carieing coalls to Holland and London, except one or two may have fraught to the Sound by strangers or Norway. Ther is four ferrie boatts, value 500 marks per piece, and now become very unprofitable since Kinghorn hes built soe many small boatts, yoalls, and great boatts.

Ane accompt of the loss of masters names and the loss of ships within these ten years.

Walter Macghie lost ane ship, 100 tuns, loadning coalls going to Ostend, about 5 years agoe, men saved.

The same Macghie lost ane ship, 100 tuns, near Yearmouth rods, load with coalls, goeing for Holland, about 4 years, men saved.

The said Walter is dead within thir thrie years and his ship about threttie tunns sold to strangers.

John Dougall dyed about 5 years since, ship sold to strangers.

Patrick Rankine, dead about 6 years, his ship become a wrak.

Thomas Mastertoun, dead tuo years since, his ship sold to strangers.

Alexander Simson, dead one year since, his ship sold to strangers.

Mathew Heggie, ten years agoe lost comeing from Holland, all lost.

John Williamsone, comeing from Holland the year therafter were put ashore upon the coast of Ingland and they by betaking themselves to the boat were all drowned. When the said ship came home one Lodvick Weemes bought her who coming from Holland were all lost.

George Tod, Jully 1690, went over to Ostend and bought ane bigg ship about 300 tunns. After he bought her he died there, August 1691, and his brother bringing her home was lost, he and all his companie with a quantity of brandie.

John Tods ship, burden 100 tuns, went from this place in October 1690 with

ane stock of mony to load his ship at Norway and neither men nor ship heard of since.

James Oswald, his ship about 150 tunns, goeing over to Holland, November 1690, was lost on that coast, with coalls, salmond, and others.

John Williamsone, May 1689, comeing from Holland, his ship about 70 tuns, was caried to Dunkirk.

Matthew Andersone, about ten tunns, runn downe at the back of the May.

The year therafter the said Mathew Andersone hade ane other bush about 100 tuns lost at Eyemouth.

About fyve years since, William Robertsone, comeing from Aberdeen with ane dogger, 60 tuns, was all lost.

About 7 years since, Robert Bogie goeing to Ostend harbour, lost his ship about 80 tuns, the men saved.

John Davidsone, goeing to Rotterdame, about 6 years, lost his ship on the Crab, burden 120 tuns, men saved.

William Sheduway, bound for London, about 9 or 10 years since, was lost near Cromae, man and boy, burden 40 tuns.

Ane accompt of the skippers, men, ships, and loadning, since the last visitatione the 7th day of May 1688 yeares.

Alexander Meek, ship goeing for London was cast away upon Buxie Sand, March 1692, ballast with coalls and linning cloath, value 6000 marks.

John Ramsays ship goeing for Dantzick with a loadning of salt was taken by a French frigott, and he payed for the ship and loadneing 200 lib. sterline.

George Walkers ship was lost at Stonhyve, value 1800 marks.

Ane bush belonging to John Tod, named the Generall, was wraked in this harbour, value 1,000 marks.

Walter M'Kie lost his ship at Ostend with loadning, value 7,000 marks.

The same year, the said Mackie lost George Tods ship loadned with coalls and tallow of Yearmouth, value 9,000 marks.

James Oswalds ship was lost upon the coast of Holland with coalls and salmond, value 14,000 markes.

George Tods new ship bought at Ostend comeing home was cast away at Wintertownness, value 10,000 marks.

John Tods ship and men were lost goeing to Norway, value 6,000 marks.

Loadwick Weemes lost of Bomer, loadened with whyt pies, except one man, value ship and loadneing 5,600 marks.

John Williamsone, younger, comeing from Holland was taken by a French frigott and carried to Dunkirk, value three thousand marks or therby.

In witnes of the veritie heirof, wee have subscrivit thir presents with our hands at Kirkcaldie the first day of Junij 1692 years, befor thir witnesses, John Buchan, one of the ordinar officers of this burgh, and Robert Cuninghame,

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692.

younger, wryter, there. *Sic subscribitur:* James Lundie, belyie; Henrie Oswald, baillie; Rot. Cuninghame, clk. Rot. Cunninghame, witness; Jo. Buchan, witness.

BURGH OF MONTROSE.

MONTROSE.

Accompt of the comon good of the toun of Montrose at Martimas anno 1685.

The wind milns	1,006	13	4
The shoar dewes	500	0	0
The pettie customes	107	6	8
The grass in the links	44	0	0
The weigh house	36	13	4
The flesh shemles	191	6	8
The few duties	197	0	0
	2,083	0	0

The comon good at Martimas 1686, as the thesaurers accompts will instruct	2,053	6	8
Ditto, Martimas 1687	1,985	13	7
Ditto, Martimas 1688	2,076	13	0
Ditto, Martimas 1689 to Martimas 1690	2,125	0	0

Accompt of the debt resting by the toun of Montrose dew to sewerall persons 15,280 13 0.

The annual rent thereof is	917	0	0
To ministers yearly more then the found	1,000	0	0
To the schooll maister and maister of the gramar school	306	13	4
To the officers fies and ther coats	200	0	0
To the touns æquie	51	12	0
To the clerk	51	0	0
To the master of the musick schooll	20	0	0
To the church officer	16	6	0
To the towns agent	24	0	0
To the town keepers fie	12	0	0
The milne wrights fie	24	0	0
The sclaiters fie	8	0	0
The news letters	60	0	0
The provost, baillies and thesaurers fies	60	0	0
	2,750	11	4

The misive dewes and borrowes agents.
The commissionars charges to parliament and borrows.
To the mantainance of the mills and lye dayes.
The mantainance of ballast boat and publict houses.

To the advocats and writers.
The towns debursements in intertaineing persons and officers.
The maintenance of the bridge of Toik.

2. As to mortifications, wee have but what belongs to the hospitall and church sessione which are applyed for the use of the poor.
3. Wee are not in that article concerned.
4. Wee are not concerned in that article.
5. The thesaurers accompts and eiquie are readie to be presented.
6. There is no venting of wine heir considerable, in regaird there hes been non imported to this place except what came from Leith, Aberdeen, and Glasgow, which is not worth the notice, and when wee did import wynes wee could not retaill above six tunns; and as for the malt wee reckon it will be about three thousand bolls of consumptione in regaird the excyse therof will be about three thousand fyve hundreth pounds Scots.

				Lib.		
7. William Grigs ship, the Providence .	tuns	80	value	2133	0	0
Thomas Pearsons ketch, the Friendship .	„	50	„	2400	0	0
John Butcharts ketch, the Rose . .	„	55	„	2000	0	0
Alexander Scots doggar, the Benjamin .	„	40	„	1333	0	0
James Gentlemans ketch, the Hope .	„	45	„	1600	0	0
Walter Keths ketch, the Jannet . .	„	50	„	2000	0	0
James Scots doggar, the Elizabeth . .	„	40	„	1200	0	0
John Scots scout, the Margret . .	„	50	„	1000	0	0
Alexander Butcharts bark, the Rose .	„	25	„	600	0	0
John Boyes bark, the Jean . .	„	34	„	1200	0	0
David Burnes bark . . .	„	20	„	666	13	4
Alexander Andersones bark . .	„	13	„	333	0	0
Alexander Wabesters bark . . .	„	25	„	500	0	0
James Prestouns doggar, the Jean . .	„	35	„	600	0	0
John Grahams bark . . .	„	25	„	400	0	0
William Gentlemans bark . . .	„	20	„	400	0	0
David Rannies bark . . .	„	9	„	266	0	0
James Scots bark	„	13	„	200	0	0

1686. James Butchart from Stockholme with irone.
David Wood, from Coningsberg, with flax, now lost.
Alexander Ogilvie, to Norway, the ship then lost.
Alexander Scot, from Zetland and Stockholm with fish and irone.
Alexander Andersone, to Dunkirk with malt.
Alexander Wobster, to Drountowne with wictwall.
James Butchart, to ditto with ditto.
1687. John Scot, scout to ditto with ditto.
James Scott, to ditto with ditto.

Thomas Pearsons to that with ditto.
1687. David Wood, to London with coalls and linning.
James Scott, doggar, from Rigant with flax and hemp.
William Grig, from Dantzick with lint and cnapold.
James Gentleman from Stockholm, with iron.
James Butchart from ditto with iron.
Thomas Pearson to Dunkirk with salmond.
James Butchart, to Campheir with salmond and plaiden, ane great pairt of the salmond belonged to the herretors.
1688. James Scot to Christianland with wictwall.
Alexander Scot, to Norway with corne.
James Butchart, from Stockholm with iron.
Thomas Pearsone, from Riga with flax; and
David Wood to London with coalls and linning.
William Greig, to Norway for timber.
Thomas Pearson, to Dunkirk with salmond.
1689. Alexander Scot, from Stockholm with iron.
James Gentleman, from Queensberg with flax.
Walter Keith, from ditto with flax.
Thomas Pearson, with tuo pairts salmond and half load home.
John Scott, scout to Norway with ballast.
James Scot, to ditto with ballast.
David Wood, to London with coalls and linning.
1690. James Butchart, from Holland two parts load.
Thomas Pearson, from Coningsberg with flax.
William Greig, from ditto with flax.
James Gentleman, from Stockholme with iron.
David Wood, to London with coalls and lining.
Ane Sweed, from Stockholme with dealls and irone.
Alexander Scott to London with goodes.
James Butchart, to Holland with tuo pairts salmond and half load with goodes back.

For inland trade, wee have non save coalls and salt for serveing the inhabitants, and our barks are imployed for transporting gentlemens victwall to the Firth. As for tobbaco, suggars, and leather, our merchants are served from Glasgow.

8vo As for ships belonging to burghs of regality and barrony, wee have no intrest in them, except one William Thomsone in Peterhead, about sextie tunns, of which some of our merchants have three 16 pairts and does not trade here.

9no Our cess is payed by way of stent and that besides four moneths yearly for which wee stent ourselves, the towne being supperexpended and in debt to our thesaurers as will appear by ther accompts, to some 100 lib. starling a year and to some 200 pound starline.

10mo Our ministers stipends, schoolmasters, precenters, and all other publick servants are payed as alreadie sett doun.

11mo Our publick works are mantained out of our comon good, except the church as alreadie sett doun.

12mo The houses of the towne inhabited and emptie, the rent of them yearly extends to, and as the particular accompt heirwith will show, the sowme of 12,634 lib. 3s. 4d.

13. Wee have two fairs in the year, the one in May the other in Jully. As for the first, the officers of the toun collects that for themselves and get it from the councill as ane gratuity, the other payes 9 lib. Scots which will not defray the charges.

14. As for burghs of barrony and regality, wee have non within our precinct that have any forraigne trade except Stonhyve, and ther belongs to the said towne in which wee have no intrest nor tradeing with them William Greg, one ketch, burthen about sexty tunns, and John Woods doggar, burthen nynty tunns. Wee have also within our prescincts Fettercairne, Auchnablea, and Drumlithie which are verie inconsiderable.

15. Its ane instruction to the visitors.

Montrose the 10th September 1691. The above accompt of charge and discharge is the just and trew accompt of the comon good and debts of the said burgh, given up be the magistrats and toun clerk, upon oath, to the visitors appointed be the royall borrowes for that effect, and it is declaired by the saids magistrats and clerk that the ballance wherein discharge exceeds the charge yearly is defrayed by taxting the burgessis and inhabitants themselves who now hes retracted, whereby the towns debt most necessarly increase. This signed by the magistrats and clerk, day and place above mentioned. *Sic subscribitur:* Robert Aburthnet, provost; Robert Rennald, baillie; Ja. Mudie, baillie; Tho. Lyell, clerk.

BURGH OF COUPAR.

At Coupar the fyfteen day of September 1691. The samen day, whereas the royall borrowes of this kingdome in ther last generall convention holden at the burgh of Edinburgh the nynth day of Jully last by past, did think it proper and convenient for the good of the royall borrowes to give instructions for a visitation of the saides borrowes, which were then read and approven of in the said conventione and delivered, and recomended to John Mure, provost of Air, and Mr James Smalet, commissioner for the burgh of Dumbartoune, visitors appointed for the burghs be north Forth, as the saids instructions in themselves fully proports; in obedience to which wee the magistrats and toun clerk of the said burgh of Coupar doe heartiely and cheerfully give in the followeing answers and returne.

Chairge.

Imprimis. As to the towns comon good, being a casuall rent payed out of

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. COUPAR.

milns, smal customes, ground annuities, and comon pasturage, extends *communibus annis* to the soume of two thousand or twentie one hundreth pounds Scots monie, inde 2,100 lib.

Discharge.

Imprimis. As to the towns debts upon bond of principal .	4,738	12	0
Item, the yearly annual rent of the said accumulat soume .	284	6	2
Item, to the payment of the first ministers manse, gleeb, viccarage, and other things wherof they have been in use of payment these twentie years	174	0	0
To the payment of the second ministers stipend, conform to bond given by the magistrats and toun councill to our present minister when he entered, befor the '60 year of God .	373	6	8
To the principle master of the gramer school, of yeirly sallarie .	180	0	0
To the schooll doctor, for serveing both doctor and precenter in the church	106	13	4
To the payment of the race plate and incident chairges thairanent, the found being 600 marks lent to the towne, inde [£24]	240	0	0
To the towns eiquie and expences in makeing therof . .	28	0	0
To the payment of the towns few duty, Culross mill . .	10	0	0
To the touns clerks sallarie	13	6	8
To the payment of the toun thesaurers sallarie . . .	28	0	0
To the officers, drumer and piper, ther fies and cloaths .	127	14	0
To the keeper of the touns knock	12	0	0
To the jayler yeirly	40	0	0
To the payment of the misive dewes yearly these tuo yeirs yearly	72	9	2
To the payment of ane commissioners fie to the borrows .	28	0	0
To the payment of the comunion eliments . . .	40	0	0
To the generall postmaster	30	0	0
To the incident expences in upholding our milns, tolbooth, bridge streets, is yearly above 400 marks, inde . . .	266	13	4

Coupar the fyfteenth day of September j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie one years. This is the trew accompt, charge and discharge, of the comon good of the said burgh, given in by the magistrats and toun clerk, upon oath, to the visitors appointed by the royall burrowes for that effect, and they have subscrivit the samen, day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Tho. Lockhart, baillie; Joseph Knox, baillie; James Childsdaills, baillie; J. Anderson, clerk.

ENSTER EASTER.

BURGH OF ENSTER EASTER.

Accompt of the comon good of the burgh of Enster Easter.

Charge. Marks.

Imprimis. The customes and anchorage of this burgh for this current year, 1691, are 290

	Marks.
Item, of land rent and which is wodsett to the kirk sessione for a pairt of the ministers stipend	150

Accompt of the debts due by the burgh of Anstruther Easter and payed out of ther comon good and taxatione upon the inhabitants of the burgh.

	Marks.
To the minister yearly, as a pairt of his stipend, the burgh having built the church on ther own charges	570
To the Hills in Queensferrie of principall	2,100
Item, threty two years annual rent therof or thereby . . .	4,032
To Robert Hamiltoun, merchant in Edinburgh, of principall and annual rent	800
To Mr Thomas Chalmers pupills of principall	1,200
To eight years annual rent therof being	600
To the kirk sessione and minister, for which they have the comon land wadsett and the minister uplifts the rent thereof of principall .	2,500
To the poors box of principall which was taken by the lords of sessione	800
To thretie nyne years annual rent therof or therby . . .	1,900
To Mr William Moncrieff, late minister, or thereby . . .	500
To the representatives of Mr Edward Thomsone . . .	600
To Mr Pitcairn, principall of the old college of St Andrews . .	400
To Mr John Buchan, borrows agent 80 lib., inde . . .	120
Item, to John Guthrie	400
Item, to the clerk yearly	30
Summa est	16,532

Anstruther Easter, the 17 September 1691 yeirs. This is the trew accompt, charge and discharge, of the comon good of the said burgh, given up by the magistrats and toun clerk, upon oath, to the visitors appointed by the royall borrowes for that effect, and they have subscrivit the samen, day and place forsaid. And they cess the people for the difference of the two. *Sic subscribitur:* James Lauson, lait baillie; Andrew Duncane, late baillie; Ja. Simpsone, clerk.

BURGH OF DUMFREIS.

Dumfreise the twenty third day of April j^{m} vj^{c} nynty two yeares. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundee, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed by the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall borrowes be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats of the said burgh of Dumfreise and ther toun clerk, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructions as followes.

1° As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good to the best of ther knowledge will amount to 2,666 lib. 13s. 4d. or thereby, *comunibus annis*, and that ther debts will be about twentie thousand marks or therby.

APPENDIX III.

REPORTS, 1692. DUMFREIS.

2do As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes belonging to them.

3tio As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therin.

4to As to the fourth article it is answered they are not concerned therin.

5to As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced ther thesaurers bookes for fyve preceeding yeares to the saids visitoris who have considered the samen, and that they are stated in the answer to the first article, and that ther eiquies with ther clerks and other dewes therto belonging amounts yeirly to twenty nyne pounds Scotes, which is instructed by the dischairges produced to the saides visitors.

6to As to the sext article, it is answered that they have hade these fyve years bygone of forraigne trade the followeing particulars, viz., ane small ship from France with eighteen tunns of wyne and sex tunns of brandie or thereby; item, ane other veshell from Norway with fyve thousand dailla; item, a small veshell from Stockholme loadened with iron; item, ane other small veshell from Bristoll, of the burden of twentie tunns, loadened with cydar botles hopes and some other small goodes of inconsiderable value, being four in all. And as to ther inland trade they have hade the particulars followeing, viz.: Threttie packs of linnen cloath at twenty pownd sterline the pack in neat twelve hundreth pownds sterline, and other goodes of that nature to the value of four hundreth and eighty pownd sterline; item, fyve thousand sheep skins at fyfty pownd sterline the thousand in neat two hundreth and fiftie pound sterline; item, sex thousand mort lambskins, worth seaventeen pound sterline, which they sell yearly to merchants in Edinburgh and others. And that they have ten or twelve merchants shops that retailla tarr, lint, and iron, and tuo shops that sells cloath and London goodes; and that they have some other shops of little accompt that sells brandy, pypes, tobbacco, candle, and such lyck wares; and three appothecaries shops. And this is all forraigne and inland trade they have to the best of ther knowledge and surest informatione they can gett. And that ther is vented yeirly within ther burgh about three tunns of wine yearly these fyve years bygone, and that they cannot condescend upon what malt they consume yearly in regaird ther milns are rouped with the rest of ther comon good and that they are no further concerned then the tack duty payable be the tacksmen, and that ther is litle malt made in the toune, and that the most pairt of ther malt is brought from the countrey, and that the tacksmen of the excyse are in use to sett leases therof to others soe that it is not possible for the magistrats to give a trew accompt thereof.

7mo As to the seaventh article, that they have four veshells belonging to ther towne, viz., the Adventure, of burthen about 36 tunns, the Providence, 20 tunns, the Concord, 20 tunn or thereby; and which three ships they value at ane hundreth and fyfty pownd sterline, and that they have lyen up these three or four yeares for want of trade and soe are ruinous; and the Elizabeth of 140 tunns which is lying at Kirkcudbright ruinous and disabled, soe that she cannot

goe to sea ; and that they have no other ships or barks belonging to them ; and that they have a small boat about three tunn, a yoal and no ferry boat.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not owners nor pairtners themselves, nor know they any of ther burgesses to be ouners or pairtners of any ships or barks belonging to any other burgh royall, barrony, or regality, nor are they anywayes concerned in trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a valuation of ther houses and land rent by a stent roll of ther trade, and which roll is revised and altered from tyme to tyme as trade encreases and decayes, and that now by the decay of trade the cess is lyke to fall on the land and houses ; the valuation bookes of the saids houses and borrow reeds being produced to the saids visitors, which were considered by them, extends to 12,000 lib. or thereby.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that the minister draws the teynds *ipsa corpora* for payment of his stipend of the borrow aikers as ther pairt therof, the rest being payed out of landwart parish, and that they pay threty pounds for the half of the ministers manse out of ther comon good, and the landwart parish the other half, as also they pay to there schoollmaster, doctors, presenter, and others there publict servants, 970 lib. Scots yearly ; inde the haill 1000 lib. which is payed out of the comon good, together with the annual rent of 20,000 marks of debts mentioned in answer to the first article.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that they have no hospitalls nor any harbour that hath any key, there being but a small water and very shallow and sand banks all down the water twenty mills from the towne, which hes been considered by the saids visitors, and ther being a necessity for makeing use of lighters from Kirkcudbright and Hasting it is very expensive and consumes the profeitt of ther trade. And that they maintain the rooff and fabrick of ther church, as also ther bridge consisting of nyne large arches, tolbooth, prison houses, milns, milndams, closes and schoolhouses, out of the comon good ; and that the expenses of all these above mentioned will amount to 500 lib. yearly or therby, wherby and by the expences of ther commissioners to the parliament, convention, and other publict charges, ther patrimonie is exhausted and will necessarly engadge them to contract debts, and by reasone of the inconveniencie of the river and the chairges off lighters its feared that trade will totally decay even tho ther were peace.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the most pairt of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective heretors, and ther other tenements and houses will not amount to above three per cent., and that ther will be about twentie tenements on the High street ruinous, besides some houses in closes, and that the wholl northsyde off Lochmabanegate, being a long street, was totally distroyed by fire about a twelvemoneth since or therby, a great deall whereof is as yeit unbuilt.

13. As to the threteenth article, its answered that they have two yearly fairs and a weekly marcat, and that each of these fairs is privieledged to continow

APPENDIX III. RECORDS, 1692. DUMFRIES.

eight dayes, but that they are often inconsiderable, and that one thereof, notwithstanding of the forsaid priviledge, continowes but one day, and that the customs of both are a pairt of ther comon good and soe stated in answer to the first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that ther are sewerall regalities, barronies, kirktowns, and other countrey villages within some few mills of ther toune, which they consider to be within ther precinct, who have a considerable trade and vent staple comodities in prejudice of ther burgh, all which shall be more fully made appear at the nixt conventione of borrowes.

Nota. It is to be remembered at the reporting the state and conditione of the said burgh that ther comon good is necessarly exhausted from year to year, and a great decay of ther trade, and many houses ruinous and waste, soe that they expect to be releived and eased in the fyve shilling they were heighted in the taxt roll Jully was a year.

This is the trew accompt of the touns patrimony, comon good, and state of ther burgh, with answers to the abovewrittin queries and instructions, which are given upon oath by the saids magistrats and towne clerk wnder subscryveing, to the best of ther knowledge and informatione, to the saids visitors day, date, and place above wryttine. *Sic subscribitur:* Tho. Rome, provost; Robert Johnstoun, baillie; John Irveing, baillie; Wm. Menzies, clerk.

INVERNESS.

BURGH OF INVERNESS.

Accompt of the comon good belonging to the burgh of Invernes, few dewties, and other caswalties belonging therto, for the year 1691.

	£	s.	d.
The peck and firlott pettie custome and tole mony of the bridge, rouped for	1,010	0	0
The weighhouse and salt measour rouped for the said year	40	0	0
Flesh stocks and shambles rouped for	46	0	0
The anchorage and shoar dewes rouped said year for	190	0	0
The few dewties yearly, and what is paid to the towne by the weivers	359	10	8
	1,645	10	8

Accompt of the yearly debursements of the toun of Invernes to ther ministers and other servants, out of the comon good of the burgh, haveing no other way to pay the same.

Imprimis, to the ministers yearly	133	6	8
To the master of the gramar schooll	133	6	8
Item, for ther eiquie	61	12	0
Item, for the misive dewes	77	8	0

	LIB.	S.	D.
Item, the four officers sallaries	40	0	0
Item, for red coats to them yearly	26	13	4
Item, the drumers sallarie	40	0	0
The provost and four baillies sallaries	33	6	8
The thesaurers sallary	40	0	0
The clerks sallarie	66	13	4
Item, the annual rent of 11,841 lib. 7s. Scots of debt resting be the toune yearly is	710	0	0
Item, for keeping the touns knock yearly	80	0	0
Item, the executioners sallarie yearly	16	0	0
Item, for coall and candle to the sewerall gairds from Michaelmes 90 to Michaelmes 91, conform to the thesaurers accompt therof	460	0	0
Item, for repairing the peer and harbour from Michaelmes 90 to Michaelmes 91, per the thesaurers accompt thereof	90	0	0
To Mr William Robertson of Inshes, for the rent of the house and close quher the peits for the severall gairds are keeped	10	0	0
Item, to William Cuthbert, merchant, for the rent of ane seller for a meill mercat yeirly	12	0	0
[£2,030, 6s. 8d.]	3,030	15	8

It is to be remembered that the visitors upon inspection of the thesaurers accompts of the said burgh, not haveing found the annual rent of ther debtes charged therin, and haveing enquired the reason therof from the magistrats, they declair that it is not the custome of the burgh to charge the thesaurer with debts, especially the comon good being otherwayes expended, as appears by the thesaurers bookes; but they declaire, upon oath, that the annual rents of the debts given up be them in the discharge are all yeit resting, and in case the publict pay not ther pairt of the saids debts they have no way to satisfie the samen but by stenting themselves. This subscryved tyme and place forsaid.

The above accompt of the comon good of Invernes and the accompt upon the other page of ther debts and debursements, the one extending 1,645 lib. 10s. 8d. Scots and the other, being ther discharge, extending to 3,030 lib. 15s. 8d. monie forsaid, are the just and trew accompts of the charge and discharge of the burghs comon good and debts; and the magistrats declair that the ballance betuixt the charge and discharge is raised by cess on the inhabitants of the burgh; and that is subscrivit by them upon oath day and place forsaid, only the magistrats doe declare that in leiw and stead of the fyve pound sterline as a pairt of the 100 marks stated as the clerks sallarie in the discharge, the towne have transacted with the clerk and allow him the duplicandos of the few deuties at the entrie of ther vassalls, which the clerk receaves in satisfactione of the said fyve pownd sterline, soe that it is all one to the towne as if he were paid in specie conforme

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692.

to the article in the discharge. *Sic subscribitur:* Hew Robertsone, provost; Wm. Duff, baillie; J. Duff, baillie; Wm. Rose, baillie; Tho. Hossack, theasurer; Sa. Cuthbert, clk.

BRUNTISLAND.

BURGH OF BRUNTISLAND.

Ane trew and reall rentall of the comon good of the burgh of Bruntisland, as the samen was rouped and sett from Martimas 1690 to Martimas 1691 in maner followeing, to witt:—

	LIB.	S.	D
Imprimis, the comon land 380 marks	253	6	8
Item, the postship for 300 marks	200	0	0
Item, the anchorage for	235	0	0
Item, the boat silver for	88	0	0
Item, the small customes for	120	0	0
Item, the custome upon the load of coalls	35	0	0
Item, the boothes and sellars wnder the tolbooth	30	0	0
	961	14	8

This is all our comon good. As for mortifications, wee haue none, neither haue wee any impositions.

Out of which comon good ther is yearly payable to the stipendaries afternamed the soumes of mony underwritten, viz.:—

Imprimis, to the minister yearly 400 marks is	266	13	4
Item, to the schoolmaster yearly	100	0	0
To the schooll doctor yearly	37	6	8
To the towne clerk yearly	44	0	0
To the towns agent yearly	12	0	0
To the tuo officers, toun drumer, and to him that keeps the cloack yearly	80	0	0
To the kirk beddell	13	6	8
To the cloak dresser yearly	8	0	0
Item for clearing the towns equies yearly	11	0	0
Suma is	572	6	8
The stipendaries fies being deduced of the said comon good ther remains for payment of the towns debt and annual rents	389	8	0
Prooff	961	14	8

The comon good of the said burgh for the year preceeding, viz., 1690, amounts in the haill to the soume of £870, 18s. 4d.

The stipendaries fies for the said year being deduced which comes to, with the equie	572	6	8

	LIB.	S.	D.
Ther rests to pay the touns debts which extends to 10,348 lib. 1s. 4d. and annual rents therof the said year, the sowme of .	298	11	8
Prooff is .	870	18	4

Bruntisland 19 September 1691 years. Wee the magistrats of the burgh of Bruntisland, undersubscriveing, doe heirby attest that this is a trew rentall of the said burgh for the years 1690 and 1691 and of the stipendaries yearly payable furth thereof, as witnes our hands day, place, and year forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* David Christie, bailly, Wm. Cheaplain, baillie.

BURGH OF INVERKEITHING.

Rentall of the burgh of Inverkeithing, its few duties, ground anwalls, and casualties, payable to the magistrats and toun councill therof from Whitsunday 1690 to Whitsunday 1691 yeares, comprehending ther wholl comon good, extends to the soume of 622 lib. 2s. 4d. Scots mony. Nota that the shoar dewes are not here included because it is fallen in the touns hands the year forsaid.

Debt dew be the towne of Innerkeithing to ther creditors undernamed, both as to principall sowmes and annual rents preceeding Martimas 1690.

	PRINCIPALL.			YEARS.	ANNUAL RENTS.		
Imprimis, resting to the kirk session of the said toun . . .	266	13	4	14	224	0	0
Item, to Janet Gillespie per bond .	366	13	4	3	66	0	0
Item, to John Anderson per bond .	200	0	0	3	36	0	0
Item, to Robert Baird per bond .	666	13	4	3	40	0	0
Item, to James Dudgeon and his spouse per bond . . .	133	6	8	1	8	0	0
Item, to James Broune, coupar, per bond	200	0	0	1	12	0	0
Item, to Robert Main per bond .	66	13	4	1	4	0	0
To Robert Hendersone per bond .	333	6	8	1	20	0	0
To David Thomson per bond .	117	13	4	1	6	17	0
To the gildrie of the said burgh per bond	100	0	0	1	6	0	0
To them per subscrivit ticket .	58	0	0	0	0	0	0
To the fraternity of baxters or maltmen in the toun per bond . .	2509	0	0		422	17	0

Deductions out of the rentall, which with the annuall rents abovewrittin the thesaurer of the said burgh for the year forsaid is authorized to pay.

Imprimis, ane yearly duty to the Earle of Lauderdaile . .	20	0	0
Item, the ministers manse	20	0	0

APPENDIX III.
REPORTS, 1692
INNERKEITHING.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Item, to the schoolmasters sallarie	40	0	0
Item, to the knock keepers sallarie	10	0	0
Item, to the clerks sallarie	33	6	8
Item, to the touns officers ther fies and cloathes . .	40	0	0
Item, the drumers fie	14	0	0
Item, for the touns equie	14	10	0
Item, ane yearly duty to the sherriff of Fyffe . . .	20	0	0
Item, to each one of the baillies of the said burgh . .	12	0	0
Item, the theasurers fie	6	13	4
	230	10	0

Item, the commissionars to the parliament and burrows.

This is the treu rentall and debt of the towne of Inverkeithing, attested under the hands of us the provost, baillies, and clerk, undersubscriveing, the seaventeen day of August 1691. *Sic subscribitur:* Alexr. Spittell, provost, William Henderson, baillie, Jo. Cant, clk., David Thomson, baillie.

KINGHORN.

BURGH OF KINGHORN.

Charge of the comon good of the burgh of Kinghorn, from Martimas 1688 to Martimas 1690 being two years.

Imprimis, from Martimas 1688 to Martimas 1689 our miln .	128	0	0
Item, the postship that year	108	0	0
Item, the boats silver that year	81	6	8
Item, to the impost and anchorage that year . . .	33	0	0
Item, our comon grasse that year	215	6	8
Item, the grasse of the Rodding Braes that year . .	120	0	0
	685	13	4

Charge of the comon good of the burghe of Kinghorne from Martimas 1689 to Martimas 1690.

Imprimis, our miln that year	146	3	4
Item, the postship that year	173	3	0
Item, the boats silver that year	105	0	0
Item, the impost and anchorage that year . . .	36	0	0
Item, our comon grasse that year	239	0	0
Item, the rent of the Rodding Braes that year . .	120	0	0
	819	10	0
	685	13	4
Suma of both is .	1505	3	4

Discharge.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Item, deu be the toun of Kinghorn to the laird of Halyeards per bond	2000	0	0
Item, more be the toun to the kirk session therof	533	6	8
Item, more to David Orrock be bond	266	13	4
Item, more to Mathew Law be bond	100	0	0
Item, dew be the toun to the primgilt box be bond	78	13	4
Item, to baillie Patrick Wallace be bond, for his attendance and debursements at the convention of estaits, three sessions of parliament, and generall and particular conventions of borrows these tuo years	357	16	0
	3336	9	4

This is the just and trew debt oweing be the towne of Kinghorne be bond.

The tuo years annualrent of the abovewrittin principall soum	400	7	0

Payable yearly to the towns servants.

Item, to the schoolmaster and precentar at the kirk of Kinghorne these two yeares	160	0	0
To the clerk for his fie these two yeares	77	6	8
To the toune officers for ther fies these yeares	77	6	8
Item, the equies these two yeares	25	8	0
Item, the misive dewes these tuo yeares	59	14	0
Item, bestoued upon the repairation of the Pettiecuir, besid what the 10s. on the boll of malt extends to	508	13	4
Item, more, the touns incident charges these tuo years and repairing our miln being all doune to the ground	516	13	0
	1825	8	8

Sic subscribitur : Robert Bruce, Robert Shaw, scriba.

BURGH OF BRICHEN. BRICHEN.

ANSWERS by the burgh of Brechine to the querries given in to them by John Muir, provost of Air, and Mr James Smalet, provost of Dumbartoune, visitors appointed by the borrows for the royall borrowes benorth the water of Tay.

1. To the first, requiring ane accompt of the comon good and debt, its answered by ane peaper apairt containeing both.

2. Its answered that they have no mortificationes belonging to the toune or gildrie.

APPENDIX III.
REPORTS, 1692.
BRICHEN.

3. Its answered that the touns thesaurers accompt fitted for fyve years preceeding the year 1691 are presented to the visitors.

4. Its answered that they haue no forraigne trade, being ane inland and countrey burgh. As for ther inland trade its but very mean and small, being altogether failled within these three or four years last, soe that more then a third pairt of the merchants and inhabitants of the toune are either become bankrupt or left the burgh, as will appear by a list of the vacant houses therof, and soe all the inland trade is small commodities, such as soap, stearch, salt, iron potts, pans, and other small wairs bought from the nearest sea port, and soe the advantage is litle or none. There are some tuo or three of the inhabitants of the burgh who are imployed by merchants in the adjacent burghs to buy green lining for them and have some litle benefeit therby, and for the rest of the inland trade its by eight or ten of the inhabitants tradeing in bear and maill for serveing the inhabitants of the burgh, and some few in the burgh and paroch and countrey round the towne with malt and maill; all which is extraordinarly inconsiderable, soe that the haill inhabitants groan under the burden of the monethly cess and supply, being fyve pound ten shillings sterline monethly, and altho the samen be laid on by way of taxatione yeit verie offten the inhabitants prove insolvent of their respective stents, in which caice the towns comon good pays the defficiencie of the towns stent roll, which hes amounted to considerable soumes these three years by past, as may be seen by the theasaurers accompt produced. As to the vent of wyne ther is but one house or inn in the towne that vents wyne, while these three years bypast there hes been litle seck or brandie. There are some sallars of aile that vent brandie about ten points a year. As for the vent of malt its not considerable, the wholl toune being decayed soe that the brewars have litle or noe seall for aile but from strangers and at the comon fairs belonging to the toune, and the excyse roll is become a great deall short of what it was formerly.

5. Its answered that ther is no shipping great or small belonging to the burgh, the samen lyeing fyve mylls from the sea.

6. It is answered ther is no inhabitant hes any pairt of or portioners in with others in shipping in other royall borrowes or burghs of barronie.

7. Its answered that the cess of the burgh being fyve pound ten shillings monethly is laid on by taxatione on the inhabitants but often they faill in payment of their respective stents, soe that the deficiencie is made up out of the comon good and falls out to be considerable.

8. Its answered that the first ministers stipend is payed out of the bishops rents, the second minister is payed out of the teynd of the parochine and bishops rents, except ten pounds for ane yeard yearly. The rest of the publict servants fees are payed out of the publict and comon good of the burgh as will appear by the peaper apairt.

9. It is answered that the wholl publick works are mantained out of the

comon good, such as ane bridge on the water of Southesk, which did cost the toune in anno 1685, upwards of 1000 marks, and soe brought the publict in debt. Item, the grammar schooll, whilk is ane verie old house and most now be altogether repaired, besides ane good sowme it hes stood the toune yearly for many years bygone. Item, the tolbooth which is extream old house and is to be taken downe and of new built and fortified out of the comon good. Item, the publict marcat cross whilk is altogether demolished and will just now stand the town upwards of (*blank*). These, besides the publict streets, ports, and dycks of the comon grass, and mantaineing the comon milns, one of which in anno 1688 did stand the towne for ane new house, ane stone stooll and other materials the sowme of 100 lib. sterline, and the other is demolished.

10. Its answered that the marcat is the calsay marcat, being on Tuesday weekly, beginning the first Tuesday of Lent and containoweing till Pash Sunday, being four dayes. Item, ane weekly marcat on Tuesday throughout the wholl year. Item, ane yearly marcat called Palm Tuesday lasting one day. Item, ane yearlie fair called Trinity Fair beginning the Wednesday after Whitsonday on the Trinity Mure of Brechine, whilks is the sheep marcat day, Thursday therafter the nolt marcat day, Fryday therafter the horss marcat day, and Tuesday therafter returneing into the toune. Item, Martimas Tuesday one day yearly. Item, the weekly Craft Marcat, beginning the Tuesday after Michaelmess and containeing to Christmas, both the Calsay and Craft marcat being some better than the ordinarie weekly marcats.

11. Its answered as to the burghs of barrony and regality within the precinct of Brechine, that the laird of Edzell, within three mylls of the towne, hes a weekly marcat on Wednesday and also ane yeirly fair called St Laurence Fair the tyme of the comon fairs of Brechin, as also ther is ane other on Munday weekly, without any ground or warrant, within four mylls of the town at the north water bridge whilkis altogether destroys the touns marcats; and sicklyck there are sewerall persons that dryve a trade of merchandizeing within three or four mylls of the town, to witt, John Davidsone, James Ross, Alexander Stronach, in the parochin of Aberlemno, James Patersone in the parochine of Oathlow, David Smart and David Curdean in the parochin of Tannadice, Alexander Allan in the parochin of Menmure, James Carnegie fiar of Cookstone and Francis Stevensone in the parochin of Breichin, John Downie in the parochin of Ballgais; item, Roscobie a considerable burgh of barronie and regality; item, Killiemuire a considerable burgh of barronie and regalitie, consisting of sexteen merchants and sewerall yearly fairs, and a considerable weekly marcat. As to ther particular trade it cannot be condescended on.

Charge from Whitsonday 1690 to Whitsonday 1691 years.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, the comon milns rouped to . . .	540	0	0
Item, the comon customs to	313	6	8

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. BRECHIN.

	lib.	s.	d.
Item, the weighhouse and fleshbooths to . . .	120	0	0
Item, the comon grass	55	0	0
Item, the few deuties of the lands fewed out of the comon good	24	1	8
Suma est	1052	8	4

Discharge.

To the minister for ane yeard	10	0	0
Item, the schoolmasters sallarie yearlie . . .	77	6	8
Item, the doctor of the schooll	23	6	8
Item, the touns clerk of sallarie	66	13	4
Item, the annual rent of 3700 marks resting be the towne to sewerall persons	148	0	0
Item, to the towns officers and drumers . . .	100	0	0
Item, to the church officer for tolling the bell at ten acloack at night	4	0	0
Item, the towns equie	8	13	4
The few duty of the custom firlott and little milne . .	4	10	0
To the Earle of Panmuir of fewduty	1	10	0
To the comon sheep herd	25	12	0
To the touns particular agent at Edinburgh . . .	20	0	0
To the touns theasaurers yearly sallary	13	6	8
To the expenses at the Trinitie fair yearly . . .	33	6	8
	536	5	4

At Montrose the elleaventh day of September 1691 yeares. This and the preceeding padges is the trew conditiòne of the burgh of Brechine, both charge and dischairge, and is given up be the magistrats and clerk of the said burgh upon oath to the visitors appointed be the royall borrows for that effect and is signed by the saids magistrats and clerk day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Francis Molliesone; Alex. Young, baillie; Geo. Spence, clerk.

BURGH OF IRVINE.

IRVINE.

Irvine, the second day of May j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two years. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissioners appointed be the convention of the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be west and south the river of Forth, the present magistrats and towne clerk of the burgh of Irvine, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructions as followes:

1° As to the first article, it is answered that there comon good, *comunibus annis*, will extend to the sowme of 1,791 lib. 18s. Scots, and that ther debts will

amount to 11,636 lib. 5d. whereof there is 4,133 lib. 13s. 4d. in dependance befor the parliament, being for the plack on the point in King James tyme.

2do As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortifications belonging to them.

3^{tio} As to the third article, its answered that they are no ways concerned therin, haveing a harbour of ther own.

4to As to the fourth article, its answered that they are noways concerned therein.

5to As to the fyfth article, its answered that they have produced ther thesaurers books for fyve preceeding years which is considered and stated in the answer to the first article, and that ther equeis amounts to, with the clerks and other dewes, 17 lib. 10s.

6. As to the sixt article, its answered that these fyve preceding years all the forraigne trade they have hade is the particulars followeing, viz., ane ship of 70 tunn burden from France loadned with salt and brandie; item, another small veshell from France loadened with salt and brandie; item, another small veshell from Norway, loadened with tarr and dailla, of burden about 30 tunns; and that they have exported about thritie pack of wooll or thereby yeirly for these two years bygone, each of which packs weighs about twelve stone; also about seaven or eight small barks, about 20 tunn the piece, loadened with victwall, the beginning of the Irish troubles, anno 1689 and 1690, wherein there were some strangers concerned, and a fourth pairt of ane small veshell from Norway, there pairt of the loadening therof came to 600 dailla; and ane other ship from France, of 70 tunns, loadened with salt, and a small litle brandie. And that ther inland trade is verie inconsiderable, and what they have is by retaill of some brought from Glasgow and other royall burghs, and that they have vented about a tunn of wine, seck, and brandie, each year, these fyve years bygone; and that they will consume about fourty bolls of malt, Lithgow measour weekly, and that they hade a small quantity about twelve dacres imported by strangers.

7. As to the seaventh article, its answered that they hade eight small ships, barks, and boats belonging to them, whose burden value and how imployed is conform to ane particular accompt in answer to this article given in wnder ther hands to the saids visitors, of which eight ships they have latly lost one.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are concerned in matters of shipping in soe far it is mentioned in the above mentioned article, and that they are no other wayes concerned with unfree traders in matter of trade.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cesses is pairtly payed by tax on ther inhabitants and pairtly out of ther comon good, as is at more length contained in ther answer to the nynth article.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther pairt of ther ministers stipends, schoollmaster, and other publict servants are payed and mantaineit out of ther comon good.

APPENDIX III.
REPORTS, 1692.
IRVINE.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are mantaineit out of ther common good.

12. As to the twelth article, its answered that these houses where the heretors themselves doe stay are not stented, and the remander posest be tenents payes monethly thrie pennies on each mark piece of rent by a stranger and two pennies by a freeman, and the rent of ther haill sett houses extends to 1621 lib. 13s. 4d., but of these there are a great many waist and that ther borrow aikers payes two pennies on each mark rent without any rebatement.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have one yearly fair which begins the 8th and endest the 13 of August, wherof the Earls of Eglintowne are keepers, by ther deputs, fiscalls, and tenents, and have the one half of the customes; and they have tuo weekly marcats or fair dayes, and that the customes of the same are a pairt of ther comon good and soe stated in answer to the first article, and that ther are no other fairs in use to be held at the said burgh albeit by ther charter they have right to another which is no wont of use to be keeped.

14. As to the fourteenth article, its answered that the burghs of barronies and regalities lyeing within ther precinct are as followes, viz., one burgh of regality, Killwining; and of barronies, Kilmarnock, Kilmaars, Newmilns, Stewartoun, Beeth and Largs, which are very prejudiciall to them in point of trade, and serve the most pairt of the countrey with goodes by retaill, and that ther houses are better and more of them then many royall burghs, particularly Kilmarnock which hath a comon good and keeps a marcat. A more particular [account] therof ther commissioner will represent to the nixt conventione of borrowes.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that a litle caswall comon good accrewes to them by fines and burges admissione but not worth the mentioneing.

This is the trew accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Irvine in answer to the forsaid instructiones, as it is given up upon oath by the saids magistrates and towne clerk, wndersubscryveing, to the best of ther knowledge and surest informatione they can have to the saides visitors, day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* John Gray, baillie; James Mullivine, baillie; Ja. Nisbet, dean of gild; Jn. Hamiltoune, clerk.

BURGH OF JEDBURGH.

JEDBURGH.

[Jedburgh] the nynteen day of April j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two years. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissioners appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall borrowes be west and south the river of Forth, the present magistrats of the said burgh and ther towne clerk, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructions as followes:

1. As to the first article, it is answered that they keep no thesaurers bookes but that ther comon good extends to, *communibus annis*, to the sowme of two thousand pounds Scots to ther best of ther knowledge. *Nota.* The towne rests of debt 20,000 lib. Scots, in pairt whereof ther three corne milnes and a walk milne are sett to ther creditors for ten years for payment of 10,000 lib. of the forsaid debt, and that the remander of there comon good will not defray the anuallrents of the rest of ther debts and pay the publict burdens, by fyve hundreth pounds yearly, which they will be oblidged to borrow.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes belonging to the towne councill, gildrie, or trades, except the principle sowme of 2,000 marks, the anwall rent wherof is punctwallie payed to the kirk theasaurer for the use of the poor of the parish and poor schoolars at the gramar schooll, conform to the will of the mortifier, and that they are no other maner of way imployed for ease of the burgh.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that the saids magistrats have produced to the saids visitors their elven, weights, measours for bear and whyt, and jugg, and that the saids magistrats declair they are conform to the trew standart.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they are no wayes concerned therin, they haveing [no] seaport belonging to them and that ther neirest and most convenient is Leith.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that the magistrats have produced ther councill bookes to the saides visitors, which hes been considered and stated by them conform to the first article, and that ther eiquies extends with ther clerks dewes and other chairges, *communibus annis*, to the sowme of twelve pownd Scots which is anwally payed.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade in respect they are threttie mylls or thereby from any free seaport, ther inland trade consists most of skins and wooll and other smaller goodes, which they bring from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other royall burghs, the value wherof they cannot condescend on, or what it might amount to yearly, and that the same is verie inconsiderable.

7. As to the seaventh article, its answered that they have no ships, barks, or boats belonging to them, in respect they lye at such a distance from any seaport.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not concerned in the partnership of any ships belonging either to burghs royall or barronie or regality.

9. As to the nynth article, its answered that ther cesses is payed by a tax on ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, its answered that they pay yearly to ther ministers fourty pounds, to the schoolmaster three hundreth and fyftie marks, and that the jailor, four officers, bellman, drumer, and pyper, have 200 lib. a

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. JEDBURGH.

year amongst them, besiseds fyve pownd sterling to the shireff and two dollors a moneth to ther comon executioner, all which are payed out of the towns comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered ther church, ther bridge, within and without the toune, particularly the bridge of Ancrum, which is upon the water of Tewiot, and all ther other publict works are mantained out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the greatest pairt of there houses are inhabited by ther respective heretors to whom they belong, and that ther is not above ten houses posest be stranger inhabitants, and that the wholl may pay about ane 100 marks or therby yearly, and that neither ther tenements of land nor trade is valued but ther taxation imposed according to the discretione of the stent masters.

13. As to the threteen article, its answered that they have four yearly fairs, which only containowes for the space of one day, and ane weekly marcat, and that the customes of both are a pairt of ther comon good and soe stated in the first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that ther magistrats have alreadie given in to the last conventione of borrowes ane exact accompt of all the burghs of regality, barrony, or other unfree traders within ther precinct, and that if the same be either amissing or defective they shall second it with another at the nixt conventione.

This is the trew accompt of the towns patrimony, comon good, and esteat of the said burgh, with the answers made to the visitors instructions, which are given up upon oath by the saides magistrats and ther clerk, undersubscryveing, to the saides visitors, day and date forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Adam Ainsly, provost; William Elliot, baillie; Tho. Porteous, baillie; Wa. Scott, baillie; Ja. Oliver, baillie; Adam Rutherfoord, dean of gild; Jo. Rutherfoord, clerk.

BURGH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

KIRKCUD-BRIGHT.

Kirkcudbright the twenty fyfth day of Aprill j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie and two yeares. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissioners appointed be the royall burrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats of the said toun of Kirkcudbright, and ther toun clerk, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with answers to the saids visitors instructions as followes:—

1. As to the first article it is answered that ther comon good will amount, *communibus annis*, to the soume of 880 lib. Scots, and that ther debt will extend to 2260 lib. besides 183 lib. of ther borrow dewes, and that they contract yearly 300 lib. 3s. more then their comon good will defray.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have two mortificationes, one of 9,000 marks and ane other of 500 marks of principall, [the annualrent] whereof is payed for the poors use according to the will of the mortifier and no wayes imployed for ease of ther burgh.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they are not concerned, they having a harbour of their oune.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced ther toune books wherby ther comon good is found as in the first article, and that ther eiquies with clerks dewes and other casualties extends, *comunibus annis*, to the soume of 17 lib. 6s. 8d. conform to ther dischairge.

6. As to the sext article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade, and that ther inland trade is verie inconsiderable ; all they have they bring from Leith, Dumfreise, and other free burghs on horseback, and that they will consume about ane Hogshead of seck and brandie yearly, which they bring from Dumfreise, and they consume weekly nyne Lithgow bolls off malt.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade and that they have neither ship nor bark but only two ferry boats, which are sett yearly and stated in the answer to the first article as a pairt of ther comon good, but that they have a small boat of eight tunns newly bought for carieing there coalls but she hath never as yeit been imployed.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are [not] owners nor pairtners of any ships belonging either to burghs royall of regality or barronie, and that they have no trade with unfree burghes.

9. As to the nynth article, its answered that ther cess is payed by a tax on ther inhabitants and heretors and that ther riding monie is payed out of the comon good.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that they pay to ther minister yeirly out of the comon good 183 lib., the rest of his stipend being payed out of the landwart parish, and that the schoolmaster and all other ther publict servants have 290 lib. yearly, out of the comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, its answered that ther wholl church and all other ther publict works are sustained and upholden out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the most pairt of ther houses are inhabited and possest by ther respective herretors, and all the rest aither waste or ruinous, and that more then the half, and that each boll of bears soweing of ther borrow akers payes twenty nyne shillings yearly.

13. As to the threteenth article, it is answered that they have only ane yearly fair of one dayes containwance, the custome whereof will be about three pounds Scots, and a weekly fair, and both ther customes are a pairt of ther comon good and soe stated in answer to the first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, its answered that they have only two burghs

tax on the inhabitants, heretors of ther tenements and borrow aikers, and ther trades.

10. As to the tenth article, its answered that they pay to ther minister 300 lib. yearly out of ther comon good, and that the schoolmaster, and all other ther publict servants, have yearly payed [them] out of the same 168 lib. and no other wayes.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that ther church, tolbooth, and all other ther publict works, commissioners charges to the parliament and borrowes, are all payed out of ther comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, its answered that the most of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective herretors to whom they belong, and that the most pairt of the rest are either waist or ruinous, and that they have no stranger inhabitantes, and that the rent of ther houses is twixt twentie four pound and twenty shillings Scots yearly.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have four yearly fairs, the customes quherof are apairt of ther comon good and soe stated in the answer to the first article, and that they have no weekly marcat.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have only one burgh of barrony within six mylls of them, called Milligaff, whose trade they reckon inconsiderable, and hath only prejudged them as to ther weekly marcat.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that they have some casuall comon good by ther fines or mort cloathes quheron they cannot condescend.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh of Wigetoun, in answer to the abovewritten instructiones, as it is given up by the saids magistrats and town clerk undersubscriveing, upon oath, to the saids visitors, day and date forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Will. Coltrane, provost, Jo. Laffreise, baillie; Simon Gulline, baillie; Alexr. Campbell, clk.

BURGH OF PITTENWEEM.

Answers from the burgh of Pittenweem to the queries may be proposed by the commissionars appointed by the generall conventione to visit the royall borrowes.

1° The comon good of the burgh of Pittenweem is as followeth, viz. :—

	LIB.	S.	D.
The customes sett for	136	0	0
The grass maills and rents of the comone muires and braes will hardily be the best year	200	0	0

Nota.—The milns of Pittenweem, belonging to the Lord Anstruther, are fewed to the towne for payment of four chalders malt and bear yearly, and ther is only ane other chalder rin mett yearly payable to the toun which will not, *comunibus annis*, uphold the walls, rooff, doors, windowes, and lyeing gear of the two milns and kills, and soe no advantage but rather a loss to the toune.

APPENDIX III. Barrons, 1692.

of barronie and regality within ther precinct, viz., Monygaff and Prestoun, bo inconsiderable as to ther trade.

KIRKOUDBRIGHT.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh o Kirkoudbright, in answer to the abovewritten instructions, given up be th magistrats and towne clerk of the said burgh, upon oath, undersubscriveing, da and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Jo. Ewart, provost; John Macghie, baillie George Meek, baillie; Jo. Gordon, clk.

WIGTOUNE.

BURGH OF WIGTOUNE.

Wigetoune, the twenty sixt day of Aprile j^m vj^c and nyntie two years. Co paired James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie Aberdeen, commissioners appoynted by the royall borrowes for visiting the wh royall burghs be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats an tounne clerk of the said burgh of Wigetoune, who gave in ane accompt of th patrimonie and comon good, together with the answers to the saides visitors i structions as followes:—

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good will exte *communibus annis*, to the soume of 693 lib. 13s. 4d. and that ther debts amou to the soume of 2051 lib. 13s. 4d.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortification belonging to them.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are nowayes concern therin.

4. As to the fourth article, its answered that in any occasione they have trade they make use of ther own foot of ther water for ther harbour.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced ther tha saurers and toun court books for fyve preceeding yeares, and that ther ciquie with ther clerks and other dewes amounts to 29 lib. 6s. 8d.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trad and that ther inland trade is verie inconsiderable, and all they have is a retai of goodes which they bring from Glasgow, Air and Dumfries, the value where will amount to 100 lib. sterling yearly or therby, and that they have not vente to ther knowledge above fyve tunn of French wyne these fyve yeares bygon and that they vent about a hogshead of seck and a butt of brandie yearly, an that they consum about fourteen bolls of malt, Linlithgow measur, weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they are neither ship bark, or boat belonging to them as haveing no outland trade or convenient pair

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not owners or part ners of any ships, barks or boats, belonging either to burghs royall, of regality o barronie, or concerned any maner of way in matter of trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a yearly

tax on the inhabitants, heretors of ther tenements and borrow aikers, and ther trades.

10. As to the tenth article, its answered that they pay to ther minister 300 lib. yearly out of ther comon good, and that the schoolmaster, and all other ther publict servants, have yearly payed [them] out of the same 168 lib. and no other wayes.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that ther church, tolbooth, and all other ther publict works, commissioners charges to the parliament and borrowes, are all payed out of ther comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, its answered that the most of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective herretors to whom they belong, and that the most pairt of the rest are either waist or ruinous, and that they have no stranger inhabitantes, and that the rent of ther houses is twixt twentie four pound and twenty shillings Scots yearly.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have four yearly fairs, the customes quherof are apairt of ther comon good and soe stated in the answer to the first article, and that they have no weekly marcat.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have only one burgh of barrony within six mylls of them, called Milligaff, whose trade they reckon inconsiderable, and hath only prejudged them as to ther weekly marcat.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that they have some casuall comon good by ther fines or mort cloathes quheron they cannot condescend.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh of Wigetoun, in answer to the abovewritten instructiones, as it is given up by the saids magistrats and town clerk undersubscriveing, upon oath, to the saids visitors, day and date forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Will. Coltrane, provost, Jo. Laffreise, baillie; Simon Gulline, baillie; Alexr. Campbell, clk.

BURGH OF PITTENWEEM.

Answers from the burgh of Pittenweem to the queries may be proposed by the commissionars appointed by the generall conventione to visit the royall borrowes.

1° The comon good of the burgh of Pittenweem is as followeth, viz. :—

	LIB.	S.	D.
The customes sett for	136	0	0
The grass maills and rents of the comone muires and braes will hardily be the best year	200	0	0

Nota.—The milns of Pittenweem, belonging to the Lord Anstruther, are fewed to the towne for payment of four chalders malt and bear yearly, and ther is only ane other chalder rin mett yearly payable to the toun which will not, *comunibus annis*, uphold the walls, rooff, doors, windowes, and lyeing gear of the two milns and kills, and soe no advantage but rather a loss to the toune.

tax on the inhabitants, heretors of ther tenements and borrow aikers, and ther trades.

10. As to the tenth article, its answered that they pay to ther minister 300 lib. yearly out of ther comon good, and that the schoolmaster, and all other ther publict servants, have yearly payed [them] out of the same 168 lib. and no other wayes.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that ther church, tolbooth, and all other ther publict works, commissioners charges to the parliament and borrowes, are all payed out of ther comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, its answered that the most of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective herretors to whom they belong, and that the most pairt of the rest are either waist or ruinous, and that they have no stranger inhabitantes, and that the rent of ther houses is twixt twentie four pound and twenty shillings Scots yearly.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have four yearly fairs, the customes quherof are apairt of ther comon good and soe stated in the answer to the first article, and that they have no weekly marcat.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have only one burgh of barrony within six mylls of them, called Milligaff, whose trade they reckon inconsiderable, and hath only prejudged them as to ther weekly marcat.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that they have some casuall comon good by ther fines or mort cloathes quheron they cannot condescend.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh of Wigetoun, in answer to the abovewritten instructiones, as it is given up by the saids magistrats and town clerk undersubscriveing, upon oath, to the saids visitors, day and date forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Will. Coltrane, provost, Jo. Laffreise, baillie; Simon Gulline, baillie; Alexr. Campbell, clk.

Burgh of Pittenweem.

PITTENWEEM.

Answers from the burgh of Pittenweem to the queries may be proposed by the commissionars appointed by the generall conventione to visit the royall borrowes.

1° The comon good of the burgh of Pittenweem is as followeth, viz. :—

	LIB.	S.	D.
The customes sett for	136	0	0
The grass maills and rents of the comone muires and braes will hardily be the best year	200	0	0

Nota.—The milns of Pittenweem, belonging to the Lord Anstruther, are fewed to the towne for payment of four chalders malt and bear yearly, and ther is only ane other chalder rin mett yearly payable to the toun which will not, *comunibus annis*, uphold the walls, rooff, doors, windowes, and lyeing gear of the two milns and kills, and soe no advantage but rather a loss to the toune.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692.

of barronie and regality within ther precinct, viz., Monygaff and Prestoun, both inconsiderable as to ther trade.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh of Kirkcudbright, in answer to the abovewritten instructions, given up be the magistrats and towne clerk of the said burgh, upon oath, undersubscriveing, day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Jo. Ewart, provost; John Macghie, baillie; George Meek, baillie; Jo. Gordon, clk.

WIGETOUNE.

BURGH OF WIGTOUNE.

Wigetoune, the twenty sixt day of Aprile j^m^ vj^c^ and nyntie two years. Compeired James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissioners appoynted by the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats and toune clerk of the said burgh of Wigetoune, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with the answers to the saides visitors instructions as followes:—

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good will extend, *comunibus annis*, to the soume of 693 lib. 13s. 4d. and that ther debts amounts to the soume of 2051 lib. 13s. 4d.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes belonging to them.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are nowayes concerned therin.

4. As to the fourth article, its answered that in any occasione they have of trade they make use of ther own foot of ther water for ther harbour.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced ther theasaurers and toun court books for fyve preceeding yeares, and that ther ciquies with ther clerks and other dewes amounts to 29 lib. 6s. 8d.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade, and that ther inland trade is verie inconsiderable, and all they have is a retaill of goodes which they bring from Glasgow, Air and Dumfries, the value whereof will amount to 100 lib. sterling yearly or therby, and that they have not vented to ther knowledge above fyve tunn of French wyne these fyve yeares bygone, and that they vent about a hogshead of seck and a butt of brandie yearly, and that they consum about fourteen bolls of malt, Linlithgow measur, weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they are neither ship, bark, or boat belonging to them as haveing no outland trade or convenient pairt.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not owners or partners of any ships, barks or boats, belonging either to burghs royall, of regality or barronie, or concerned any maner of way in matter of trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a yearly

tax on the inhabitants, heretors of ther tenements and borrow aikers, and ther trades.

10. As to the tenth article, its answered that they pay to ther minister 300 lib. yearly out of ther comon good, and that the schoolmaster, and all other ther publict servants, have yearly payed [them] out of the same 168 lib. and no other wayes.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that ther church, tolbooth, and all other ther publict works, commissioners charges to the parliament and borrowes, are all payed out of ther comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, its answered that the most of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective herretors to whom they belong, and that the most pairt of the rest are either waist or ruinous, and that they have no stranger inhabitantes, and that the rent of ther houses is twixt twentie four pound and twenty shillings Scots yearly.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have four yearly fairs, the customes quherof are apairt of ther comon good and soe stated in the answer to the first article, and that they have no weekly marcat.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have only one burgh of barrony within six mylls of them, called Milligaff, whose trade they reckon inconsiderable, and hath only prejudged them as to ther weekly marcat.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that they have some casuall comon good by ther fines or mort cloathes quheron they cannot condescend.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh of Wigetoun, in answer to the abovewritten instructiones, as it is given up by the saids magistrats and town clerk undersubscriveing, upon oath, to the saids visitors, day and date forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Will. Coltrane, provost, Jo. Laffreise, baillie; Simon Gulline, baillie; Alexr. Campbell, clk.

Burgh of Pittenweem.

Answers from the burgh of Pittenweem to the queries may be proposed by the commissionars appointed by the generall conventione to visit the royall borrowes.

1° The comon good of the burgh of Pittenweem is as followeth, viz. :—

	LIB.	S.	D.
The customes sett for	136	0	0
The grass maills and rents of the comone muires and braes will hardily be the best year	200	0	0

Nota.—The milns of Pittenweem, belonging to the Lord Anstruther, are fewed to the towne for payment of four chalders malt and bear yearly, and ther is only ane other chalder rin mett yearly payable to the toun which will not, *comunibus annis*, uphold the walls, rooff, doors, windowes, and lyeing gear of the two milns and kills, and soe no advantage but rather a loss to the toune.

APPENDIX III. BURGHS, 1692. DUMBARTON.

9. As to the nynth article, its answered that a part of ther cess is payed by tax and ane other part out of the comon good by reason of the poverty of ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered ther ministers stipends is payed by the herretors of the parrochen, and that the schoolmaster and all other ther publict servants are payed out of the comon good, and that the samen extends to 323 lib. 10 s. Scots.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are mantained and supported out of the comon good, ther inhabitants being soe mean and poor that they are necessitat to contract 500 marks yeirly of debt or therby.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the greatest pairt of ther good houses are inhabited by ther respective herretors to whom they belong, and that they have no stranger inhabitants, and that the best of ther houses payes only fourty two pownds yeirly, and the rest betuixt that and fourty shillings Scots, and that ther land is not valued but that ther houses and trade are stented according to the discretion of ther taxmasters.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have fyve yeirly fairs which only containows the space of one day, and a weekly marcat, and that the customes of both are a pairt of ther comon good and soe stated in answer to the first article.

As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that they only have one burgh of barronie within ther precinct called Gallowshiells, which they reckon very inconsiderable they haveing noe trade.

This is the trew accompt of the towns patrimony, comon good and state of ther burgh, with the answers made to the visitors instructiones, which are given up, upon oath, by the saides magistrates and ther towne clerk, wndersubscryb-eing, to the saides visitors day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Ja. Mitchell-hill; Rob. Scott, baillie; Tho. Halliday, clerk.

BURGH OF DUMBARTOUNE.

DUMBARTOUNE.

Dumbartoune, the fourth day of May j^m^ vj^c^ nyntie and tuo years. Compeared befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the convention of the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl burghs royall be west and south the river of Forth, the present magistrats and towne clerk of the said burgh of Dumbartoune, who gave ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saides visitors instructiones, as followes:—

As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good, *communibus annis*, amounts to £1343, 6s. 8d., besides the sowme of ane hundreth and threttie pounds of small customes yearly for mantaineing of ther water works, and that

value 250 lib. sterling, all except one sexteen pairt of everie one belonging to the masters pertaineing to and imployed by the merchants of Edinburgh. There is also ane litle catch, wherof James Cook is master, belonging to James Cook, present baillie, about 55 tunn, value 100 lib., imployet for the most pairt be merchands in other places. The names of these ships are Sophia, Mary and George. There are no barks, boats, or ferrie boats belonging to this place, only the number of six small lyne boats who slayes whyt fish in the summer and winter, and goe to dreave at Lambas when ther is any tack of herringes, the owers wherof these sewerall years past are great loosers and have no benefeit, and the poor fishers in winter live on charitie.

8. Ther are non within this burgh that are owners of any ships or other veshells belonging to other burghs or townes, except James Cook, baillie, who hath ane sexteen pairt of Thomas Cook, skipper, in the burgh of barronie of Elie.

9. As to the payment of the cess imposed upon this burgh, it is payed by stent on the inhabitants and houses of the towne, and no pairt of it on the comon good, as may appear be the answer to the first article.

10. As to the tenth, the minister, precentar, and schoolmaster, and all other publict servants stipends and sallaries are payed, after exhausting of the comon good, by taxatione on the people, and the greatest pairt of the ministers stipends out of the teynds of the paroch. *Nota.* The answer to the first article clears thus.

11. The whole publict works are mantainit out of the small comon good and be stent upon the inhabitants, and the harbourie being the greatest concerne in the town both for the safety of ships and boats and for defending the houses on the shoar for the violence of storms, is now in a most lamentable conditione, needing great reparatione and the burgh not able to do it.

12. As to the houses in the towne, they are in so bad a conditione and that the great third pairt are either ruinous or these that are in repair (which are the best houses in the towne) are standing void without any inhabitant and these that are inhabited the best of them will not extend to 16 lib. Scots of maill yearly, and ther are no strangers liveing within the burgh.

13. As to the fairs and publict marcats, ther is only one fair on the 22 Jully yearly. The greatest comoditie sold therein is wooll and the custome of all will not be 20 lib. Scots which is a pairt of the 136 lib. custome. There is no weekly marcat here, but the inhabitants are served out of Anstruther Easter ther weekly marcat.

14. As to the burghs of barronie and regality within the precincts of this burgh, there are none, except Elie who have a good harbour, some shiping and trade. The houses are pretie good and the towne indifferent populous. There is also Saint Monance who have only fish boats, and the inhabitants who are populous and have good houses have ther livelyhood by ther fishing and labouring of land.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. PITTENWEEM. Pittenweem the 17th September 1691. This is the trew accompt of the condition of the said burgh, given up by the magistrats and towne clerk, upon oath, to the visitors appointed by the royall borrowes for that effect, and is subscrivit by the saides magistrats and town clerk, day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Ja. Cook, Alexr. Flokert, Rot. Smith, clk.

DUMFERMLING.

BURGH OF DUMFERMLING.

Rentall of the comon good of the burgh of Dumfermling anno 1690.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, the customes of sex fairs	290	0	0
Item, the customes of the shoe marcat	26	13	4
Item, the hand bell	69	0	0
Item, the pennie maills, annualls and stallange, after deductione of rouinous houses, extends yearly to about	25	0	0
Item, the grass of the towne green	29	0	0
Item, the grass of the loan	10	0	0
The lands possest be Kathrine M'Grigor pays	17	0	0
Item, John Bryse	52	16	8
Item, be Robert Hendersone	36	14	0
Item, be James Walls	25	6	0
Item, be John Stewart	25	8	0
Item, be Patrick Allan and David Turnbull	23	12	0
Item, be John Cumine	9	0	0
Item, be the relict of vmquhill Thomas Elder	1	10	0
Item, be John Willsone	7	13	4
Item, be William Cuninghame	14	8	0
Item, be William and Alexander Kirks	14	6	8
Item, be James Adiesone	6	16	0
Item, be William Peirsone	9	0	0
Item, be Robert Peirsone	9	0	0
Item, be John Maine	24	0	0
Item, be Henrie Watsone	15	0	0
Item, be Jerom Cowie	2	0	0
Item, be David Chrystie	10	13	4
Item, be John Angus	77	0	0
Item, be George Aird and Androw Malloch	39	6	8
Item, be Henrie Russall	18	0	0
Item, rent Daws Dean dealls	123	0	0
Item, teind haill comon lands, being 16 bolls 3 pecks 3 lippies bear, at 7 lib. 10s per boll is	121	13	10
Item, the house in the mure possest be Michael Andersone	4	0	0
Summa est	1106	17	10

Accompt of annwallrents, stipends, sallaries, fies, and others payable yearly furth of the said comon good of Dumfermline.

Imprimis, principall sowmes paying annuall rents dew be the burgh to the creditors followeing, all at 6 per cent., except Aitkins 700 marks for which they pay only 5 per cent.

Creditors.	Marks.	Creditors.	Marks.
Patrick Turnbull	700	Eupham Watts	100
Mr Peter Kennedie	573	John Bountein	200
David Adie	400	John Andersone	500
Issobell Dewar	500	David Horne	150
Representatives, William Brown	600	Janet Mitchell and daughter	1900
John Adie	1000	John Aitken	700
Josbell Turnbull	500	Margrat Phillan	900
Representatives, Hellen Watson	500	Margret Cochrane	450

	LIB.	S.	D.
The saids principall sowms, extending to 9673 marks, the yearly annuall rents therof payable out of the said comon good gives	382	5	0
Item, the first ministers manse maill	40	0	0
To the second ministers stipend, the towns proportion	133	6	8
To the master of the gramar schooll his sallary	140	0	0
To the doctor of the gramar schooll his sallary	73	6	8
To the master of the musick schooll his sallarie	60	0	0
Item, Broun and Honimans annual rents payable to the poor	16	0	0
Item, the towns equei to the King, 6s per annum, but the dews of the exchequer maks it yearly to amount to about	11	0	0
Item, feu deuty to the Earle of Twedale	8	13	4
The teinds of our comon lands, being 18 bolls bear, at 7 lib. 10s per boll is	135	0	0
To our proportion borrow dewes	36	11	0
To the thesaurers fie	26	13	4
To the clerks fie	26	13	4
The procurator fiscalls fie	4	0	0
The towns agents fie	13	6	8
The three officers fie	36	0	0
The drumers and pypers fies	32	0	0
	1154	16	0

Memorandum. The burgh is subject to severall incident chairges and debursements wherof no liquidat soume can be particularized and are such as followes, viz., the expences of commissionars to conventiones of esteates, to parliaments, to conventiones of borrows, convention of the shire, and severall other publick meetings, outreek of malitia and baggage horse expences, keeping

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. DUMFERMLING.

guairdes, reparationes of church, tolbooth, highwayes, and severall other publict works, keeping the cloack, charitie to the poor.

Thir two padges, with the above memoriall, is the just and trew accompt of the condition of the burgh of Dumfermline, given up by the magistrats and towne clerke, upon oath, to the visitors, and subscrived by the saids magistrats and clerk the first day of August 1691 yeares. *Sic subscribitur:* Jo. Chalmer, David Adie, Tho. Sympsone, clk.

ANSTRUTHER WESTER.

BURGH OF ANSTRUTHER WESTER.

Answers for the burgh of Anstruther Wester to the queries may be proposed be the commissioners appointed by the royall burghs.

	LIB.	S.	D.
The comon good is payable be the comon landa called Billaness yeirly 10 bolls bear, at 4 lib. per boll, *communibus annis*	40	0	0
The grass of Billaness and Braes payes yearly	16	0	0
The customes payes yearly	6	0	0
The fish teynds	18	0	0

Debts due be the burgh on bond.

Imprimis, to the kirk session poors box	1000	0	0
Item, to the sea box poor on infeftment	400	0	0
Item, to the mortcloathes box	100	0	0
Item, to Henrie Smith	266	13	4
Item, to Grisell Utting	200	0	0
Item, to Peter Oliphant	200	0	0
Item, to Mr David Taillors relict	400	0	0
Item, more to her be decreit	333	6	8
Item, to John Guthrie	100	0	0
Item, to Peter Sanders	50	0	0
	3050	0	0
The annual rent therof yeirly is	183	0	0
Item, payable yeirly to the minister	133	6	8
Item, to the schoolmaster	33	6	8
Item, to the officer	12	0	0
Item, for upholding the kirk, bulworks, bridge, and other comon works	40	0	0
Soe ther will be yearly paid furth and imposed on the inhabitants be stent	331	13	4

There are no mortificationes, no publict fairs or weekly marcats, no shipes, no fish boats except one, no merchants, noe trade.

At Anstruther Wester the 17 September 1691. The magistrats and toun

clerk have given up the samen upon oath, and have subscrivit it with ther hands day and place forsaid; except the fourt pairt of ane bark and ane other of four last. *Sic subscribitur:* William Scott, Rot. Smith, clk.

BURGH OF SELKIRK.

SELKIRK.

Selkrig, the twentieth day of April j^{m} vj^{c} nyntieth and tuo yeares. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs besouth and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats of the said burgh of Selkirk and ther towne clerk, who gave in the accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructiones as followes:

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good extends yeirly, *comunibus annis*, to the sowme of 2242 lib. 13s. 4d. these three years bygone, and that ther debts extends to the sowme of 25,323 lib. 15s. 4d. Scots of principall sowmes dew by bonds.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes belonging either to ther town councill, gildrie, or trades.

3. As to the third, it is answered that they are not concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they are not concerned therein, being within 25 mills of a free seaport and ther most convenient is Leith.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that the magistrats have produced three years preceeding thesaurers accompts to the saids visitors, which hath been considered by them conform to the first article, and that ther eiquies extends yearly with the clerks dewes and other charges to the sowme of 14 lib. 14s. Scots, which is anwally payed by the saids magistrats.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade, in respect they leive at such a distance from any seaport, and that they have no inland trade save only ther shoomakers who buyes rough hides and works and retaills the samen in shoes; and that they have retailled only two peice of French wine these fyve years bygone, and ther seck and brandie soe inconsiderable that it is not worth the nameing and that they consume weekly of malt to the best of ther knowledge about ten bolls.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships, barks, or boats belonging to them in respect they lie at such a distance from any sea port.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are nowayes concerned therin in mater of shipping, nor have they any partnership of any ship with any burghs, whether royall, of regality or barrony, nether are they concerned in trade with burghs of regality or barronie.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. SELKIRK.

9. As to the nynth article, its answered that a part of ther cess is payed by tax and ane other part out of the comon good by reason of the poverty of ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered ther ministers stipends is payed by the herretors of the parrochen, and that the schoolmaster and all other ther publict servants are payed out of the comon good, and that the samen extends to 323 lib. 10 s. Scots.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are mantained and supported out of the comon good, ther inhabitants being soe mean and poor that they are necessitat to contract 500 marks yeirly of debt or therby.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the greatest pairt of ther good houses are inhabited by ther respective herretors to whom they belong, and that they have no stranger inhabitants, and that the best of ther houses payes only fourty two pownds yeirly, and the rest betuixt that and fourty shillings Scots, and that ther land is not valued but that ther houses and trade are stented according to the discretion of ther taxmasters.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have fyve yeirly fairs which only containows the space of one day, and a weekly marcat, and that the customes of both are a pairt of ther comon good and soe stated in answer to the first article.

As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that they only have one burgh of barronie within ther precinct called Gallowshiells, which they reckon very inconsiderable they haveing noe trade.

This is the trew accompt of the towns patrimony, comon good and state of ther burgh, with the answers made to the visitors instructiones, which are given up, upon oath, by the saides magistrates and ther towne clerk, wndersubscrybeing, to the saides visitors day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Ja. Mitchellhill; Rob. Scott, baillie; Tho. Halliday, clerk.

BURGH OF DUMBARTOUNE.

DUMBARTOUNE.

Dumbartoune, the fourth day of May j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie and tuo years. Compeared befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the convention of the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl burghs royall be west and south the river of Forth, the present magistrats and towne clerk of the said burgh of Dumbartoune, who gave ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saides visitors instructiones, as followes:—

As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good, *comunibus annis*, amounts to £1343, 6s. 8d., besides the sowme of ane hundreth and threttie pounds of small customes yearly for mantaineing of ther water works, and that

ther debts dew be bonds consits of nyne thousand marks Scots monie of principall.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes belonging to them save some to ther poor and kirk sessione.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are no wayes concerned therin.

4. As to the fourth article, its answered that they are not concerned therin haveing a harbour of ther own.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced ther theasaurers bookes for preceeding years whereout the commissionars have found the ballance of these years to be as followes:—Imprimus from 1686 to 1687, the theasaurer is supperexpended the sowme of 920 lib. 3 s. 7 d. Scots mony; item, from 1687 to 1688, the theasaurer is supperexpended the sowme of 518 lib.; item, from 1688 to 1689, the theasaurer is supperexpended the sowme of seaven pownd ten shillings; item, from 1689 to 1690, the theasaurer is supperexpended the sowme of sixtie seaven pownd 6 s. and 8 d.; item, from 1690 to 1691 the theasaurer is supperexpended the sowme of one hundreth and fyfty one pound fyve shillinges one pennie Scots; and that ther equies with clerks and others dewes extends to the sowme of 18 lib. 7s.

6. As to the sixth article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade, and all there inland trade consists of some small goodes they retaill from Glasgow and other royall burghs of ane inconsiderable value, and that they have vented fyve years bygone about ane hogshead and ane half of French wynes and a hogshead of brandie, and that they vent and consume weekly about four bolls of malt or therby.

7. As to the seaventh article, its answered that they have no ships, barks, or boats belonging to them, except a litle small bark of twenty four tunns about the value of ane thousand marks, and is employed by Glasgow merchants and other strangers, and three small herring boates ane hundreth marks value one with another.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are neither owners nor partners of any shipes, barks, or boats belonging either to burghs royall, of regality or barronie, nor are they concerned in trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, its answered that ther cess is mostly payed out of the comon good and the rest by a tax on the ablest inhabitantes.

10. As to the tenth article, its answered that ther minister is payed out of the teynds, and that ther schoolmaster, advocats, agents, commissionars chairges, and all other ther public servants, are payed out of ther comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict workes are mantainit and upholden out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the most pairt of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective heretors, and the rent of ther best and

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. DUMBARTOUNE.

warst will be tuixt fourty pounds and four marks, and that they have no stranger inhabitants, and that a great pairt and many of ther best houses are waste.

13. As to the thretteenth article, it is answered that they have tuo yearly fairs, each of two days containwance, and a weekly marcat, the customes of all which are a pairt of ther comon good and accordingly stated in answer to ther first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have tuo regalities, Kilpatrick and Kilmarnock, and two barronies, Kirkintulloch and Cambernald, which burghs are highly prejudiciall to ther trade.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that they have no casuall good accrewes to them but what is a pairt of ther comon good as in answer to the first article.

This is the trew accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Dumbartoune, in answer to the abovementioned instructiones, as it is given up, upon oath, by the saids magistrats and towne clerk, undersubscryveing, to the best of ther knowledge and surest informatione they can have, to the saids visitors, day, place and year of God abovewrittin. *Sic subscribitur :* W. Craig, provost; Rob. Duncanson, baillie; Ro. Mitchell, baillie; Wm. Campbell, dean of gild; Jo. Macalpine, clerk.

BURGH OF RHENFREW.

RHENFREW.

Glasgow, the fyfth day of May j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty two years. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed by the convention of royall borrowes for visiting the wholl burghs royall be west and south the river of Forth, the present magistrats and towne clerk of the burgh of Rhenfrew, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimony and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructiones as followes :—

1. As to the first article, it is answered that there comon good, *comunibus annis*, amounts to the sowme of 581 lib. 14 s. Scots, and that ther debt amounts to 6784 lib. 13 s. 4 d.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they are not concerned therein haveing a river sufficient for there trade.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have no theasaurers bookes, but by ther accompts the commissionars have found them superexpended yearly 192 lib. 11 d. for which they are forced to stent ther inhabitants, and that ther eiqueies and clerks with other dewes will extend to 15 lib. Scots, which is annwally payed.

6. As to the sixth article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade,

ther being no persons of any stock amongst them, and that there inland trade is not worth the nameying, not having one merchants shop within ther burgh; all they have consists of some green herring they bring from the lochs to Glasgow for serveing the countrey, and that they vent nor retaill no wine nor seck within the burgh, and what brandie they vent they bring it from Glasgow in gallons and half gallons, and that the consumption of ther malt will be about four bolls weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships nor barks, but twentie four boats of burthen betuixt three and fyve tunns, imployed for carieing herring from the forsaids lochs, about ane hundreth marks the piece of value one with another, and two other boats of a greater seize, imployed for makeing of salt herring, from 12 to 15 tunns of burthen, and about four hundreth marks the piece of value one with another.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are neither owners nor pairtners of any ships, barks or boats belonging to burghs royall, of regalitie or barronie, nor are they concerned in matter of trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a tax on ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that there ministers stipends is payed out of the teynds of the burgh and paroch, and that their schoolmasters are payed out of the comon good, as also all other ther publict servants are payed out of the same.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are supported out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that most of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective heretores and the rents of the rest will be tuixt twenty marks and fourtie shillings Scots the best and worst, and that they have no stranger inhabitants.

13. As to the thretteenth article, it is answered that they have two yearly fairs, albeit ther gift gives them right to a third, the customes whereof are a part of ther comon good and so stated in answer to the first article, and that they have no weekly marcat.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have within ther precinct the particular burghs of barronie and regality afterspecifeit, viz., Paisly, Kilbarchan, Houstoune, Kilmacrom, Newark, Carsedyck, Greenock, Innerkeip and Gourack, all which are in a flourishing conditione and have a considerable retail and that the worst of these have a much more considerable trade then themselves, a more particular accompt whereof they shall at more length represent by ther commissioner to the next generall conventione of borrowes.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that ther fewes are insert in ther comon good and ther fynes are inconsiderable, not worth the mentioneing, and that ther burgers admissions are as inconsiderable, nor make they any but such as reside in ther towne.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. RHENFREW.

This is the trew accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Rhenfrew, in answer to the saides visitors instructiones, as it is given up upon oath be the saids magistrats and towne clerk, to the best of ther knowledge and surest informatione they can have, to the saids visitors, place, day and dait forsaid. Witness ther subscriptiones. *Sic subscribitur:* David Pollock, provost; W. Scot, baillie; Wm. Cochrane, clerk.

BURGH OF DUMBAR.

DUMBAR.

Dumbar, the eighteen day of Aprill j^{m} vj^{c} and nintie tuo years. Compeared James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed by the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl southerne and westerne borrowes be south the river of Forth, the present magistrats of the said burgh, who gave in the accompt of ther patrimony and comon good as followes:—

1. First article, answered that the reall comon good extends to 1388 lib. 13 s. 4 d., and that their casuall rent extends to 576 lib. 16 s. 8 d., but that it will not amount to that *comunibus annis*, as to the reall rent. *Nota.* That ther is resting to the towne of Dumbar, besides the comon good abovementioned, the sowme of 5431 lib. 6 s. 8 d., whereof there is desperate 3499 lib. 6 s. 8 d. resting be ther owne decayed burgeses.

2. Second article, answered they have no mortificationes save only the principle soume of 100 lib. Scots, the annwall rent whereof is yearly distribute to the poor of the said burgh according to the will of the mortifier.

3. Third article, answered the towne is not therin concerned.

4. Fourth article, neither are they concerned in it.

5. Article fyfth, answered by production of ther bookes to the visitors which are considered by them.

6. Sixt article, answered as to the first pairt therof that for three years bygone they have had no forraigne trade, save a litle in gross, the deutie whereof would have amounted to 100 lib. Scots, and that for the wholl three yeares, and that they have no inland trade, and as to the second pairt thereof of all sorts of wines they will not vent above three hogsheads yearly, and they will vent and consum about eighteen bolls of malt weekly in this town and precincts thereof according to the best calculation they can make.

7. Seaventh article, answered that they have no ships, barks, boats or ferrie boats belonging to them, except two small barks, the one of eighteen tunns called the Margret of Dumbar, James Osburne, master, about the value of 1000 marks, and that the other of burthen about 12 tunns, Alexander M'Leish is master, worth about 300 markes, imployed both as coall boats for bringing coalls from the Forth, and that they [have] about 16 or 17 herring boats which proves extraordinarie unprofeitable by the decaying of ther herring fishing.

8. Eight article, answered that they have no part of ships, barks, or boats belonging to burghs of barronie or regality wherof they are pairtners, nor any pairt of ships belonging to burghs royall without ther owne to their knowledge, except a six pairt of a ship belonging to one of ther burgers, wherof Mathew Andersone in Kirkcaldie is master, which hes been amissing these three years bygone.

9. Nynth article, answered that ther cess is payed by ane annuall tax on ther inhabitants of the burgh and such others who hath borrowes acres belonging to the towne.

10. Tenth article, answered their ministers stipends is payed out of the teynds and all others contained in the said article are payed out of the comon good which extends yearly to 898 lib. 9 s.

11. Elleaventh article, answered that all the publict works are mantained and upholden by the comon good and by a tax on the inhabitants.

12. Twelth article, answered, that the most pairt of the houses of the towne are inhabited by the herretors to whom they belong, the rent of the rest inhabited by others is verie mean and inconsiderable, and that at leist a third pairt of the houses of the toune are inhabited or ruinous.

13. Threteenth article, answered that they have only one yearly fair, and that the same stands the space of two dayes, and that the customes therof extends to 19 lib. Scots and is stated as a pairt of the comon good, and only one weekly marcat day.

14. Fourteenth article, answered that they know no burghs of barronie or regality prejudiciall to them, except Haymouth, whereof they take speciall notice, the principle traders whereof have made themselves burgers and have their domiciles and bear ane equall burthen with the rest of the burgars. For the state of the houses of the said toune they can give no other accompt then what is aforsaid.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh given up, upon oath, by the present magistrats, undersubscryveing, to the visitors abovenamed, day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Ro. Kellie, baillie; Robert Kirkwood, baillie; Wm. Brysone, theasaurer; Will. Kirkwood, clerk.

BURGH OF LANERK.

Lanerick, the nynth day of May j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie and two yeares. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the conventione of the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be west and south the river of Forth, the present magistrats and towne clerk of the said burgh of Lanerick, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructiones, as followes:—

APPENDIX III
REPORTS, 1692.
LANERK.

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good, *communibus annis*, will amount to 1550 lib. Scots, and that ther debts extends to the sowme of 5920 lib. monie forsaid.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they have no seaport nor occasion for it.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have produced their theasaurers bookes for fyve preceding yeares which hes been considered be the saides visitors as in answer to the first and have found by the ballance of the saides fyve yeares at the adjusting of ther accompts for 1691 ther theasaurer debitor to them in the sowme of three hundreth pounds Scots, and that ther eiquies with clerks and other dewes extends to fourty eight pounds Scots mony which is annuallie payed.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they haue no forraigne [trade] and that ther inland trad consists of fourty pack of wooll they vent yeirly or thereby and some inconsiderable trade they have by retailling goodes which they bring from Glasgow, Lithgow, and other royall burghs, and that they vent about a tunn of French wine or therby yearly, and ane inconsiderable quantity of seck and brandie, and that they vent and consume about eighteen bolls of malt weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships, barks, boats, or ferrie boats belonging to them.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are neither owners nor pairtners of any ships, barks or boats belonging either to burghs royall, of regality or barronie, nor are they concerned in trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to ninth article, that ther cess is paid by a tax on ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that their ministers stipends is payed out of the teinds of the paroch, and that ther schoolmaster and all others ther publict servants are payed and mantained out of the comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that ther publict works are supported and mantained out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the houses are in reasonable good conditione, and that the rents of the best and warst of ther houses will be twixt eighteen pounds and sex poundes, and that they haue few or no houses inhabited by strangers.

13. As to the thretteenth article, it is answered that they haue four yearly fairs, each of two dayes containwance, and a weekly marcat, the customs of all which are a pairt of ther comon good as in answer to the first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that the following burghs of barronie and regality are within ther precinct, viz., Hamiltoun, Steven, Stounehouse, Lesmahego, Carlock, Carnwath, Carstairs, Douglass, Roberttowne, Bigger, Lamingtoun, Craufurd and Craufurd John, who haue all weekly marcats and

sewerall fairs of great value, and the house rents and trade of most of them are better then ther owne.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that ther fynes, burgers admissions, and other casualties are but inconsiderable and applyed for the use of the burgh.

This is the trew accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Lanerk in answer to the aboue writtin instructiones, as it is given up, upon oath, by the saids magistrats and toune clerk, undersubscryveing, to the best off ther knowledge, to the saids visitors, place, day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Ja. Weir, bailly, Rob. Huntar, baillie, R. Dick, clk.

BURGH OF ABERBROTHOCK.

Ane accompt of the yearly rent of the comon good of the burgh of Aberbrothock:—

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, the yearly annual rents, comon fauld deuties, new muir lands, loch mealls, Berrie Faild, Kings mealls and teind lint silver	198	9	3
Item, the miln mealls	133	6	8
Item, the shoar dewes casuall ordinarily	133	6	8
Item, the land customes casuall ordinarily	50	0	0
Item, the comon grasses ordinarlie	128	0	0
Item, of land rent	27	0	0
Item, of the annual rent of four hundreth marks dew upon David Esplens house	16	0	0
	686	2	7

Debts and burthen upon the comon good of the burgh of Aberbrothock, besides the yeirly repairing of the harbour and other incident chairges upon the burgh.

Imprimis, to Mr James Rait by bond 1000 lib. of principall, annual rent	60	0	0
Item, to David Scot per bond 1000 marks annual rent	40	0	0
Item, to James Mudie per bond 400 marks of principall, annuall rent thereof	16	0	0
Item, to James Fraser of Kirktoune per bond 100 lib. of principall, annual rent is	6	0	0
Item, to the minister for house rent	56	13	4
Item, to the schoollmaster	46	13	4
Item, to the doctor	24	0	0
Item, to the man that attends the cloack	20	0	0

		Lib.	s.	d.
Item, to the toune officers		30	0	0
Item, to the drumer		13	6	8
Item, to the touns agent at law		30	0	0
Item, for the equie to the exchequer		10	0	0
		352	13	4

At Aberbrothock the elleaventh day of September j^m^ vj^c^ nyntie one years. This is the just and trew accompt chairge and dischairge of the comon good of the said burgh, given up be the magistrats and towne clerk, upon oath, to the visitors appointed by the royall borrowes for that effect and signed by the saids magistrates and towne clerk day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Will. Aughterlonie, James Stevinson, Ja. Dalgetty, clk.

Burgh of Elgine.

Elgine.

Compt of the comon good of the burgh of Elgine payable into the samen in manner underwritten.

	Lib.	s.	d.
Imprimis, the customes one year with another	200	0	0
Item, furth of the aughten parts and Greeship lands holden of the said burgh of few deutie, there being three score aughten pairts and each aughtein part paying yearly of few deuty 14s. 2d., inde	44	12	6
Item, furth of the lands of Barflethills yearly of few deutie	33	6	8
Item, furth of the lands of Mosstowie of fewduty	10	13	4
Item, furth of the half of Croftnoy and tofts of old milns yearlie	0	13	4
Item, furth of the other half of Croftnoy, Palmerbutts and Officers Riggs	1	9	4
Item, furth of Blackfrier hauch and manse therof	4	6	8
Item, furth of Bailliefeild and Blacklogie	5	0	0
Item, furth of the school aiker	0	10	0
Item, furth of the Lyperland	3	0	0
Item, furth of the Spittell Croft	0	6	8
Item, furth of Glasgreen and Muirtack	3	13	4
Item, furth of Divillie green and Three Crooks	16	6	8
Item, furth of the milne croft	0	1	0
Item, furth of Kempsaiker	2	10	0
Item, furth of the ronrig in Ballinshaugh	0	1	0
Item, furth of the Goosenook, Mariewell and Calsward	3	6	8
Item, furth of the peice ground betuixt the water of Lossie and tofts of old milns	1	17	8
	331	14	6

Compt of what is yearly payable furth of the lands holden of the Preceptorie of Messenden, mortified be the Kings and Queens of Scotland to the said burgh.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, furth of the lands therof yearly	66	13	4
Item, furth of the lands of Nethermanbeins and hauch thereof yeirlie	16	6	8
Item, furth of the lands of Bogsyde yearly	6	0	0
Item, furth of the lands of Overmanbeins	6	0	0
Item, furth of the lands of Kirkedds	20	0	0
Item, furth of the lands of Easter and Wester Pettinsears	13	6	8
	128	6	8

Compt of the discharge of the comon good and mortificationes of the burgh of Elgine and how the samen wes expended, anno 1687.

Item, payed out to the masters of the gramar and musick schools as their yearly sallary and for ther chamber maills	176	13	4
Item, payed out to the drumer as his yeirly sallarie, and for a coat to him and mantaineing of the drum, and for the officers coats and service done be them	65	0	0
Item, to advocats and agents for attending the towns affairs	40	0	0
Item, paid for the touns eiquei the said year	22	0	0
Item, payed out for the towns misive dewes for the said year which is included in the discharge for the year 1688	63	2	0
Item, for coall and candle to the guaird	13	6	8
Item, to the church beddells for ringing the bell each evening and morneing and attending the towns cloack	24	0	0
Item, spent on the Kings birthday	14	0	0
Item, payed to the mershall as his fie and for his cloathes	28	0	0
Item, to baillie Grant for attending the convention of borrowes the said year and for dilligence done be him at the said convention in procureing ane ordor for visiting the trade of this burgh	114	0	8
Item, expended in convening these commissionars that were appoynted be the convention of borrowes for visiting the trade of this burgh, and spent with these commissionars at the makeing of their report thereanent	130	0	0
Item, expended in procureing the gift anent the harbour at Elgins head, and given to Mr Bruce, ingeneir, and the commissionars expences in goeing south to get the said gift	700	0	0
	1390	2	8

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. ELGINE.

	lib.	s.	d.
The dischairge of the comon good and mortifications of the said burgh of Elgine the year 1688 extends to the sowme of .	1127	8	0
The dischairge of the said comon good and mortificationes for the year 1689 extends to the sowme of . . .	2085	19	4
The dischairge of the said comon good and mortificationes for the year 1690 extends to the sowme of . . .	2634	6	8
The dischairge of the said comon good and mortificationes for the year 1691 extends to the sowme of . . .	965	1	0

Elgine, the second day of September j^m^ vj^c^ and nyntie one yeares. The above and on the other padge, with what is within, is the just and trew accompt chairge and discharge of the comon good, debts, and mortificationes of the burgh of Elgine, given up be the magistrats and towne to the visitores, and the magistrats declare that they have noe other way to satisfie what the discharge exceeds the chairge but by stenting ther inhabitants. Subscrived day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Wm. King, provost; J. Russall, baillie; Keneth Mackenzie, baillie; Jo. Smith, baillie; Robert Andersone, clk.

BURGH OF PEEBLES.

PEEBLES.

Peebles, the twentieth day of Aprill j^m^ vj^c^ nyntie tuo yeares, compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillié of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats of the said burgh of Peebles, and ther towne clerk, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good together with ther answers to the saides visitors instructiones as followes:

1. As to the first article, it is answered that by productione of the theasaurers compt bookes for the fyve preceding yeares the comon good of the said burgh extends, *comunibus annis*, to the sowme of 1722 lib. 6s., Scots monie, and that the principal sowme due be the said towne by bondes amounts to 6706 lib. 12s. 8d. mony forsaid.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have only two mortificationes, one of 200 marks and the other of 100 marks of principall, and that the annual rent thereof is punctwally payed to the schooll master for mantaineing of poor schoolars at the gramar schooll, and that the rest is imployed for mantainance of the Tweed bridge, and that the samen is nowayes employed for ther ease.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that this burgh is nowayes concerned therin.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered they are not concerned therin as haveing no seaport belonging to them, and that ther nearest and most convenient is Leith.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that the magistrats have produced

ther theasaurers bookes for fyve preceding years to the saides visitors, who have considered the same and is stated conforme to their answer to the first article of the instructiones, and that ther eiquies, with clerks and other incident dewes, extends to yearly 17 lib. 13s. 4d. Scots monie which is anwally payed.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade, and that ther inland trade is verrie mean and inconsiderable, and that they vent and consume about three hogsheads yearlie of French wines and about half a tunn of seck and brandie, and that ther consumption of malt will extend to about sex or seaven hundred bolls yeirly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no shipes, barks, or boats belonging to them.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they [have] no pairts of ships belonging either to burghs royall or regality or barronie and that they do not correspond in trade with any unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a tax on ther inhabitants and that they stent them with no more then ther quota dew to ther Majesties by act of parliament.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that they pay only 100 marks yearly out of the comon good to ther minister, and that they pay yearly to the schoolmaster, presenter, and all other ther publict servants out of ther comon good the sowme of 445 lib. Scots.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are mantained and upholden out of ther comon good, and that they are brought to much expences yearly in mantaineing fyve bridges, one wherof hath fyve arches over Tweed, and that ther debts continowes much about one as is stated in answer to the first article.

12. As to the twelfth article, it is answered that ther houses are mostly inhabited by ther respective heretors and that they pay no cess for the same, and that all other ther tenements and houses will not amount to above 100 lib. yearly, and that they have no stranger inhabitants amongst them.

13. As to the threteenth article, it is answered that they have fyve yearly fairs, each continoweing for the space of one day except the first which hes two dayes, and a weekly marcat, and that the customes are a pairt of the comon good as in the first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have tuo regalities and some barronies within ther precinct which have a considerable trade, far above any trade of ther toune, and not only these burghs of regalitie and barronie but other kirk townes and countrey places vent and retaill staple comodities, all which their commissioner shall at more length represent to the borrowes at the next conventione.

This is the trew accompt of the towns patrimony and comon good and state of ther burgh, with ther answers made to the visitors instructiones, which

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692.

are given up upon oath by the saides magistrats and towne clerk, wnder-subecryveing, to the saids visitors, day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Robert Forrester, baillie; Archibald Sheild, baillie; Jo. Tweedie, Dean of Gild; Wm. Williamsone, clk.

CRAILL.

BURGH OF CRAILL.

Answers given in by the magistrats and clerk of the burgh of Craill to the commissionars from the burghs of Air and Dumbartoune, being appointed visitors of the royall burghs, to ther instructiones, as followes:—

1. As to the first article, it is answered by the magistrats and towne clerk of the burgh of Craill, upon ther great oathes, that the comon good and debts are as followes, viz.:

	LIB.	S.	D.
That the customes and anchorages of the said burgh for six years backward is yearly	75	0	0
Item, the borrow maills yearly are	38	10	0
Item, of fearmes payable be James Horseburgh, yearly, of bear 18 bolls 1 quarter; item, by Patrick Hodge, of bear 4 bolls; at 4 lib. 3s. 4d. per boll is	76	0	10
Item, by Patrick Hodge, of oats, 5 bolls at 3 lib. 10s. per boll is	17	10	0
Item, the product of the comon muir of Craill by all lyable is, whereof there was only sett the last year	33	6	8
Item, by the laird of Lundie yearly as a tack duty for the priviledge of the customes of the burne of Largo . .	3	6	8
Item, by the burgh of Pittenweem	4	0	0
Item, by the toun of Enster Easter	3	6	8
Item, the four comon milns of this burgh payes yearly of grind malt 30 bolls, there being rebeat 3 bolls 3 firlotts for making it unground malt, ther being only to compt for 26 bolls 1 firlott malt, at 4 lib. 13s. 4d. per boll is 122 lib. 10s. 0d. .	302	10	0
Item, 10 bolls oat maill at 4 lib. per boll, 40 lib. .			
Item, 10 bolls peise, the price forsaid, 40 lib. . . .			
Item, of monie rent, 100 lib.			
Nota.—This 100 yearly is wared on the milns.			
	553	10	10

Followes the accompt of the debts dew be the toune of Craill to there creditores.

Imprimis, of principall soumes dew to the creditors . .	4500 marks.
Item, to the poor of the sea box and that by ane appryseing expired	
To James Thomson by appriseeing	3000
To James Moncreiff by appryseing	1500
To the aires of Allan Millar by infeftment on the milnes .	3500
To Mr David Watson by infeftment on do. .	1700
To James and George Begbies by infeftment on the milnes .	1000

To John and Thomas Adamsones by infeftment on the milnes .	1000	
To Alexander Bayne by bond beside the numbrous bygone annual rents therof	700	marks.
To the aires of Andrew Millar by bond, of principall . .	600	
	18,500	

	LIB.	S.	D.
The yearlie anwalrent thereof is	740	0	0
Item, to the schoolmaster yearlie	105	0	0
Redendo to the exchequer, equie, and drink monie . .	19	14	0
Item, by bond to Mr Patrick Lyndsay . . .	100	0	0
Item, resting of bygones to the borrows agent . . .	416	10	0

Item, resting to George Moncreiff of Sawchop for his expense and attendance in going to Edinburgh to the convention of estaits, anno 1678, and at the parliaments, conventions of estaits and borrowes ever since, except Murrayes parliament, which was attended by Mr John Prestoune, and tuo yeares convention of borrowes attended by him and William Craufurd, wherof he receaved only 72 lib. Scots, *inde* resting to Sawchop for his wholl expences all that tyme.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that ther is a mortificatione of some small prebenders and the teind fish and lint of the burgh, which were mortified for the mantainance of the harbour by the King, and many other of these prebendars are in desuetude and which wee are instantly persewing for and now depending befor the lords.

5. As to the fyfth article, produces the theasaurers accompts and eiquies fyve years backward.

6. As to the sixt article, answered that as to the vent of wynes ther is non imported to this place thir fyve years backward for retaill, ther being but one ventener in toune who will depone on oath or produce his bookes for what wynes is vented be him thir fyve yeares backward; and for the consumatione of malt, wee know not exactly, but the waiter on the excyse is willing to produce his bookes whenever called for.

7. As to the seaventh article, answered that ther is no shipps in the towne but one old ship belonging to John Adamsone which is not worth 1000 marks Scots, of 60 tunns burding; one boat old belonging to Andrew Corstorphain, not worth 600 marks, and one other old boat to John Adamsone worth 400 marks; item, four bush boats lyeing wrack at the full sea, belonging to George Moncreiff, Mr William Moncreiff, Andrew Short and William Crawfurd, estimat to 100 lib. Scots the peice; item, there is about twenty fishing or dreave boats all belonging to the inhabitants within the burgh, not above fyftie pounds Scots the peice overhead.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that the inhabitants of the burgh have no trade with burghs of barronie and regalitie either in the pairts of ships

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. CRAILL.

or merchandizeing any maner of way except ane eight pairt of ane old bush in Leaven, James Young, master, belonging to James Moncreiff.

As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther is no pairt taken out of the comon good for payment of cess but the inhabitants are stented conform to ther trade and house rents.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that the ministers stipends is payed by the herretors out of the teynd of the paroch and that the schoollmaster and precentor are payed by the toune out of the first and readiest of the comon good and that all other publict servants are soe payed.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that the publict works of the burgh, particularlie the harbour thereof, is mantained out of the mortificatione appointed for that effect in so far as it will runn and by stenting the inhabitants for the supperplus.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that ther is no house inhabited within the burgh by strangers; and for the best house that is fermed, with malt steeding, brewhouse, corne, bairne yaird and croft, is not aboue twenty pownd Scots; and for the rest of the houses inhabited the rents being soe low that wee are ashamed to give ane accompt of them, and a verie great many of our houses are alltogether ruinous and not inhabited which wee shall make appear evidently.

13. As to the threteen article, it is answered that wee haue twa publict fairs, each of them standing for a day, the intrinsick value thereof worth nothing at all, for the customes will not make 4s. Scots each marcat for the customes, on which he is willing to depone.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that ther is no burghs of barronie or regality lyeing next adjacent to us in regaird there is four royall burghs within four mills of us erected on our priviledges.

Answers given in by the magistrats and towne clerk of Craill to the commissionars for the burghs of Air and Dumbartoune, appoynted visitors for the royall burrowes, to the instructiones aftermentioned, and that on ther great oath.

As to the first article, it is answered that there comon good conform to the list given up extends to the sowme of 553 pound 10 s. 10 d.

And the debts dew be the burgh to ther creditors, conform also to the particular list given in, amounts to the sowme of 12,973, 16 s. 8 d.

Craill, the sexteen day of September 1691. This aboue writtin list is declared to be a truth on our great oathes, as witnesseth our subscryptiones day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* George Moncreiff, Wm. Robertsone, Geo. Dischingtowne, clk.

TAYNE.

BURGH OF TAYNE.

Ane counsell holden within the tolbooth of Tayne, the twentie nynth day of August 1691, by John Ross, provost of Tayne, Angus M'Culloch and Alexander Hay, baillies thereof, Thomas Mansone, dean of gild, Walter Ross, lait provost,

David Ross, theasaurer, Alexander Ross ,(*blank*) Williamson, Hugh Fraser, David Mansone, Charles MacCulloch, and Nicoll Ross, counsellers of the same. The whilk day, the said John Ross produced ane missive letter of the dait at Invernes the twenty eight instant, under the signe and subscription of John Moor and James Smolet, declaireing that where they both being the tuo that were appoynted for the north by the last convention of burrowes are come the length of Inverness to visit our conditione and to take ane accompt of our comon good and debts and of our mortificationes and trade, to the effect and for the causes specifiet in the said missive letter, conform to which missive letter and in obedience therto, the said provost, baillies, and councill of the said burgh of Tayne ordained me, wndersubscrybeing, there clerk, to put the condition and accompt of ther burgh, comon good and debts and of our trade in writ, whereof the tenor followes :—

First, the said burgh hes of comonitie to the value of 18 lib. Scots, yearly, which is all the sallarie ther clerk hes.

Item, two milnes of yearlie rent 240 lib. Scots monie, wherof belongs to the said burgh nyne pairts, being yearly ane huudreth and eightie pownds Scotes.

Item, the comon customes of the said burgh, yeirly, 60 lib. Scots.

Item, resting be the said burgh to Hugh Bayne in Culraine, which was borrowed from him to help us to buy the saids milnes 1000 lib. Scots.

Item, resting be us to William Ross of Aldie of borrowed monie, for the use forsaid, 66 lib. 13s. 4d.

Item, resting be us to Mr James MacCulloch of Piltoune the sowme of 1000 lib., which was borrowed from his vmquhill father to pay our pairt of John M'Leod, lait collector of the excyse, his deficiencie, this burgh being then joynt commissionars with the shire.

Item, rest to Rorie M'Leod of Cambusairrie the sowme of 300 lib. mony forsaid, borrowed from him for payment of bygone cess.

Item, this burgh payes yeirly to the knock waiter and bell attender the sowme of fourty pownds.

Item, to the schoolmaster yeirly 100 libs. Scots.

Item, to remember that this burgh hes no seaport or harbour or any boat or boats great or small belonging therto, nor hes any concerned in haill or in pairt with any within this kingdome by shipping or other wayes, only that the poor inhabitants soe traffiques from hand to hand and by ther correspondance with the burghs of Invernes and Elgine, and from these who are the second or third hand therin the poor chapmen of this place buyes there goodes and not other wayes.

Item, to remember that a great pairt of the building of this poor place is waist and turned ruinous, in soe far as many of the inhabitants and families were necessitat to quyt the towne by reasone of the stress of quartering of the forces and publict stress and impositiones, and that notwithstanding thereof the forces are in areirs and resting the poor inhabitants for bygone quartering to the extent

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. TAYNE.

of the sowme of 8000 marks, which occasioned the removeing of many from the place and extingwishing ther families, and for want of payment of the said rest many more are lyck to be removed.

Item, to remember and it should be considered that the poor chapmen of this place who travelit and did keep up the burden of this place did within thir four years loss by sea ane great boat with the full loadening of merchant goodes brought from Elgine, to the value of 5000 lib. Scots monie, by and attour the loss of mariners and certain persones of the incorporatione, soe that this place is soe redactit as not able to traffecque in the least.

Item, it is to be considered that the kirk, steiple, councill and prison house of this burgh, are soe ruinous and demolished that they are in repaireing and cannot be made up in the same integrity it was formerlie without payment and advancement of ane considerable sowme to the extent of two thousand marks, which is a thing impossible for this poore place and burgh to doe without the christian and charitable supply of weel affected neighbours. In testimonie wherof, wee have subscrivit thir presents, at Tayne, the 29 August 1691 yeares. *Sic subscribitur:* John Ross, provost; Angus MacCulloch, baillie; Alex. Hay, baillie; Thomas Mansone, dean of gild; Chs. Mansone clerk.

BURGH OF BAMFF.

BAMFF.

At Bamff, the fourth day of September j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie one yeares. The magistrats and towne councill of Bamff haveing mett, and takeing to ther considerationc the rent and comon good of the said burgh, that they might make ane just report therof to the visitors commissioned by the royall borrowes for survyeing the trade, comon good, and conditione of the haill borrowes royall of the kingdome, have given to the saids visitors ane exact and full accompt therof as followes:—

Accompt of the few deuties and yearly casualities belonging to the burgh of Bamff.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Item, the Earle of Eirlie payes	43	9	0
Item, George Gordon for few deutie	3	0	0
William Cumming of Auchrey for few deuty	14	0	0
James Cock for his tenement	0	1	6
William Fyfes aires for Coldhame	0	5	0
Peter Stewart, merchant, for his lands	0	1	0
Alexander Ritchie for St Ninians land	0	3	4
James Turner for his tenement	0	4	4
Provost Stewart for few deutie	10	0	0
Mr John Abercrombie of Glasshauch	0	6	8
James Brockie for Marie croft	1	6	8
For the few deutie of the ferry boat	100	0	0

	LIB.	S.	D.
For the small customes of the said burgh and shoar dewes of the samen	128	0	0
Item, for the comon grass	58	6	8
Item, Issobel Legat of few deutie	0	10	0
Item, Alexander Gordon of few deutie	0	6	8
	356	0	10

Accompt of publict burdens and yearlie annwallrents payable be the said burgh.

Item, to the minister of stipend	133	6	8
To the gramar schoolmaster of sallary	120	0	0
To the precenter	50	0	0
Item, for mantaineing the four toun officers in ther coats, shooes, stockins, hatts and fies	50	0	0
Item, to the drumer	14	0	0
Item, to the pyper	14	0	0
For both ther coats, shoes and stockins	14	0	0
To the kirk officer for ringing the bells morneing and evening and for candle	30	0	0
Item, the annwall rent of 100 marks borrowed from the kirk sessione	4	0	0
Item, the anwall rent of 100 lib. resting to George Fordyce	6	0	0
Item, the annwall rent of 1650 marks resting be the burgh and payable to the minister yearlie	30	0	0
Item, the towns eiquie	30	2	0
Item, for the yearly mantainance of a post	52	8	0
Item, payed of few duty to the colledge of Aberdeen	13	6	8
Item, for maill of ane house to ane Inglish schoolmistris	10	0	0
Item, to William Reid for attending the magistrats loft	5	0	0
For mantaineing of the ferry boat yeirly	20	0	0
To the comon officer for mantainance	30	0	0
To the towns agents and advocats	70	0	0
To the procurator fiscall of sallarie	6	13	4
For the yearly mantainance of the schooll	16	0	0
For the mantainance of the tolbooth	10	0	0
	764	16	8

The burghs of barrony within this shire are Milntowne of Ballvenie, Newtoun of Edinglassie, Keith, Carnousie, Newtowne of Park, Newmilne of Strylaie, Rothemay, all dry burghs, of ane inconsiderable trade, Down and Portsoy, seaports and burghs of barronie.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. BAMFF.

Bamff the fourth day of September 1691. This is the just and trew accompt of the comon good and debts of the burgh of Bamff, given up by the magistrats and clerk, upon oath, to the visitors appointed by the royall borrows; as also ane list of the burghs of barronie and regality within ther precinct; and the magistrats declair that the ballance betuixt the charge and dischairge is payed by taxing the inhabitants. Signed day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Alex. Leslie, provost; A. Randers, baillie; George Keith, baillie; Alex. Cock, clerk.

BURGH OF CULROSS.

CULROSS.

Accompt of the few deuties and other comon good of the burgh of Culross, payable yearly as followes, viz. from 1690 to 1691.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, the few duty roll of the burgh of Culross extends yearly to	85	14	8
Item, the small weight and pettie customes of the said burgh from Martimas 1690 to Martimas 1691	36	0	0
Item, the shoardewes, hundreth trie, &c.	3	6	8
Item, the privieledge of the ferrie sett for	26	0	0
Item, the metts and measours of the meal marcat	46	0	0
Item, the standers of the shooe marcat	5	6	8
	202	7	8

Accompt of what is lyable in payment be the burgh of Culross yearly as followes.

Imprimis, to the minister	66	13	4
Item, to the schoolmaster	80	0	0
Item, to the wnder teacher	13	6	8
Item, the towns eique is	20	0	0
	180	0	10

And this by and attour the annuall rent of the principal sowme of 4407 lib. 4s. 8d. which they are oweing to sewerall persones by bonds.

This is ane trew accompt, charge and discharge, given in by the said towne of Culross to the visitors, upon oath, the 18 August 1691. *Sic subscribitur:* William Adam, bailly; Ro. Blaw, baillie; Ja. Gray, baillie; James Meason, clk.

BURGH OF WHYTHORN.

WHYTHORN.

Att Whythorne the twenty seaventh day of Aprile j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two years. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting

the wholl royall burghs be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats and towne clerk of the burgh of Whythorne, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructions as follows :

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good extends only to 12 lib. Scots or therby and that ther debt will amount to 160 lib.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are nowayes concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they have a sufficient harbour of ther own if they hade any trade.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have no theasaurer bookes, haveing soe small a comon good, and that they are not used to pay any eiquies nor know they what it would extend to.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade and that ther inland trade is most inconsiderable, being a small retaill of goods they bring from Air or Dumfriese ; ther wine, seck, and brandie is soe inconsiderable that they cannot condescend on it ; and that they vent and consume ten Lithgow bolls of malt weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have neither ship, bark, or boat belonging [to them] in regaird of the povertie of ther inhabitants.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not owners or pairtners of any ship or barkes belonging either to burghs royall, of regalitie or barronie, and are not concerned in trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the ninth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by stent on the inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that they pay no pairt of the ministers stipends, and that ther school master and all other ther publict servants are payed by a tax on themselves.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are mantained by a stent on themselves.

12. As to the twelth article, its answered that the most pairt of ther houses are inhabited by ther respective heretors, and that they have no stranger inhabitants, and that the rents of there houses are tuixt fyfteen pownd and twenty shillinges Scots, many whereof are ruinous.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have two yearly fairs, each one of one dayes containwance, and that they have no weekly marcat ; the customes of there fairs are a pairt of ther comon good and soe reckoned in answer to the first article.

14. As to the fourteen article, it is answered that there are no burghs of barrony or regalitie lyeing near them or prejudiciall to them.

15. As to the fyfteen article, it is answered that ther fynes which are casuall are most inconsiderable.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. WHYTHORN.

This is the trew accompt of the state and condition of the said burgh, in answer to the above wryttine instructions, given up, upon oath, by the saides magistrats and towne clerk, wndersubscryveing, at the place forsaid, to the saids visitors, day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Adam Dunlop, provost; Jo. M'Candish, bailie; Harie Donaldsone, baillie; William M'Candish; Wm. Gowane, clk.

BURGH OF FORFAR.

FORFAR.

Charge of Charles Dicksone his intromissione as thesaurer of the burgh of Forfar, from Michaelmas 1689 to Michaelmas 1690 yeares.

	LIB.	S.	D.
First, the Kings mealls, comon, and few deuties of the said burgh, extends to	100	3	0
Item, tuo booths beneath the tolbooth	15	16	8
Item, the pettie customes	54	0	0
Item, the wind milne	106	0	0
Item, the muir mealls	50	13	4
Item, the custom of St Peters fair	90	0	0
Item, the tack deuties	86	0	0
Item, the grass mealls the said year	67	14	0
Suma of the charge	570	7	0

Discharge of the forsaid charge.

Imprimis, to the schoolmaster of sallarie	48	0	0
Item, to the officers of fies, drumer, poundler and knock keeper, and for ther cloaths	123	14	0
Item, to the touns commissioners for attending the parliament and borrowes, makeing the towns eiquei, missive and other dewes	250	0	0
Item, ane years annual rent of 1400 marks dew be the towne to the church	56	0	0
Item, of necesar expences debursed upon the towns accompt and for expresses with lettres to and from his Majesties forces and furnishing of necessaries to ther gairds when they lay in the towne, and repairing of the wind milne and school of the said burgh	549	15	8
	1027	9	8
Soe that the dischairge exceeds the charge in the sowme of	457	2	8

At Dundie, the first day of September j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie nyne yeares. The magistrats of Forfar haue given in the forsaid accompt of ther comon good and

the discharge therof, to the truth of which they declaire and subscryve, and for the difference betuixt the chairge and dischairge they stent ther inhabitants therfor at there conveniencie. Subscrivit day and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Jo. Carnegie, provost; Ja. Dicksone, baillie; C. Dicksone, baillie; Will. Dicksone, clk.

Accompt of the debts dew be the burgh of Forfar.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, dew be the said burgh be the church of Forfar .	933	6	8
To the church of Dundie	933	6	8
To the laird of Dod	66	13	4
Item, three years annual rent dew to the church of Dundie .	168	0	0
To the minister for his stipend cropt 1689 which is payed of the teynd of the corns of the said burgh, which cornes were eatin and distroyed be ther Majesties forces ther horssis, and now is charged by him as ane debt upon the towne, inde . .	600	0	0
Item, be the towne of Forfar to there theasaureris since Michaelmas 1685 to Machelmas 1690	2108	1	10
	4809	7	6

Ane accompt of the corns eattin and distroyed by ther Majesties forces ther horssis, cropts 1689 and 1690.

Imprimis, conform to General Major M'Kays ordor direct to the Shirreff of Forfar, ordoring to call eight fearmers who best wnderstood for apprisseing the saides corns and to be overseen by countrey gentlemen, who were solemnly sworn to appryse the samen conform to the said Generall his ordor, did appryse the loss and damnadge to 1200 bolls oats bear and pees with the fother at ten mark per boll, inde . . . 8000 lib.

Item, of horses and carts taken be ther forces and free quarters from the inhabitants of the said burgh wherby they are damnified in the soume of . . . . . 2000 lib.

To remember that ther tolbooth and schoolhouse of Forfar are both ruinous and that many of ther inhabitants have left the toune upon the accompt of ther oppression and quartering.

Accompt of the burghs of regalitie and barronie nixt adjacent to the burgh of Forfar given up by the magistrats and toun clerk of the said burgh concerning ther trade.

Imprimis, the regalitie of Kirriemuire within three mylls of Forfar which trades and traffecques with all kynd of merchant vair and hes ane great weekly marcat, yearly, with tuo great marcats containowing two dayes each of them, with ane croft marcat containowing from Michaelmes to the twentie third day of December, which marcats exceeds all the marçats in this place and shire and will trade in and about yeirly 6000 lib.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692.

The barrony of Glames three mylls from Forfar wherein is keeped the Earle of Strathmores barron courts weekly and ane great fair, and will trade in and about 1000 lib.

ROTHESAY.

BURGH OF ROTHESAY.

Irvine the second day of May 1692. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost off Dundie, and Alexander Walker, bailly off Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl burghs be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats and toun clerk of the burgh of Rosa, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimony and comon, together with ane answer to the saids visitors instructions as follows :—

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good, *communibus annis*, will amount to 159 lib. 13s. 4d., and that ther debts extends to 213 lib.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes belonging to them.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are nowayes concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth, it is answered that they are nowayes concerned therin haveing a harbour of ther own.

6. As to the sixth article, it is answered that they have no theasaurers books by them to produce, and that ther eiqueis extends with clerks and other deus to 17 lib. 14s., and that they have no forraigne nor inland trade except some goodes they retaill from Glasgow of ane inconsiderable value, and that they have vented no seck, wine or brandie these fyve yeares bygone, save two hogsheads of wine and about eight gallons of seck or thereby, and that they can give no accompt of what quantity of malt they consume yeirly at present but shall give ane accompt therof to the nixt conventione of burrowes.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships or barks but only one small boat of twelve tunn burden, and about 12 lib. sterline value, and 19 herring boats about 80 lib. value or therby.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are neither owners nor pairtners of any ships, barks, or boats belonging either to burghs royall, of regality or barronie, nor are they concerned with any unfree burgh in matter of trade.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that there cess is payed by a tax on ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther ministers stipend is payed out of the teynds of the paroch and that all other ther publict servants are payed out of there comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that there church and all other there publict works are mantained and upholden out of the comon good.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that ther houses are possessst be ther respective heretors except few that are inhabited by tenents and that the

best and worst will be tuixt 16 lib. and 4 lib. Scots, and that they have no stranger inhabitants.

ROTHESAY.

13. As to the 13 article, it is answered that they have tuo yearly fairs, the one of one and the other two dayes containwance, the customes whereof are a pairt of there comon good and soe stated in answer to the first article.

14. As to the fourteen article, it is answered that they have no burghs of barronie or regalitie within ther precinct.

15. As to the fyfteen article, it is answered that they have no casuall comon good but what is stated in the first article.

Nota.—Ther is 77 lib. of more debt oweing be them which is not contained in the first article.

This is the trew accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Rosa in answer to the above instructiones, as it is given up, upon oath, be the magistrats and towne clerk, undersubscriveing, to the saids visitors at the place, forsaid day and dait abovewrittin. *Sic subscribitur:* Ja. Stewart, provost, Alexr. Gray, baillie, Da. Stewart, clk.

NAIRNE.

BURGH OF NAIRNE.

Accompt of the comon good of the burgh of Nairn as per theasaurers charge for fyve years.

Imprimis, the constant standing comon good, being our few dùties allanerally, as per yeirly theasaurers rolls, 13 lib. 10s.

Nota.—All the rest of our income being meer casualities that at the best availl, reckoning one year with another, wee esteem can amount only to 27 lib.

Item, resting be the burgh for bygone missive dewes; item for byrunn cesses occationed by the insuperable poverty of the place, eighteen months, at eighteen pounds Scots per mensem is 234 lib.

Item, to Baillie Angus as the price of ane bell brought home for the touns use, 78 lib.

Item, to our commissioner for attending the conventione in parliament, 140 lib.

Nota.—Wee sustained considerable losses for not payment of forces accompts, as per our accomptes to the exchequer sent south two severall tymes conform to proclamationes theranent, extending in haill to (*blank*). Item, by the Highland armie lyeing upon our corns with fyve hundreth horss full twenty four hours in August, at a firlot each horse, 125 bolls, at 10 marks per boll, inde 833 lib. 6s. 8d. Item, by expresses and baggage horses being so frequent for tuo years tyme.

The burghs of barronie within this shire are Calder belonging to the laird of Calder, retaill considerable. Item, Geddes belonging to the laird of Kilravock, uses no trade. Alderin, a pretended burgh of barronie of the laird of Kilravocks, retaills considerably. No regalities in this shire.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. NORTH BERWICK.

of ther baillies being absent, the other sick, who compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdèen, commissionars appoynted by the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl south and westerne borrowes be south the river of Forth, who gave in ane accompt of the patrimonie and state therof as followes:

1. First article, answered that the comon good off Northberwick extends to 19 lib. 6s. 8d. for the year 1690, ther being no other bookes produced to the visitors but for that year.

2. Second article, answered they have no mortificationes.

3. Third article, they are not concerned therein.

4. Fourth article, they are not concerned therein.

5. The magistrats being absent could get no accompt of ther theasaurie bookes save only ther comon good.

6. Sixt article, for malt, wine and brandie, soe inconsiderable the vent therof that its not worth the mentioneing, ther being only five firlotts of malt sold weekly.

7. Ships they have none nor ferrie boats except two fish boats which payes nothing to the toune.

8. Its answered they have no pairt of ships, barks, or boats without ther towne, ther being non of them in a conditione.

9 article, that ther cess is payed by a yearly tax on ther houses and borrow aikers.

10. Ther ministers stipend is payed by the heretors of the paroch.

11. That ther publict works, such as ther harbour, tolbooth, and streits and servants fees are all payed out of the comon good.

12. The clerk declairs he cannot give ane accompt of the maills of the towne houses.

13. They have neither weekly nor yearly marcats.

14. That Dirletoune being a burgh of barronie lyes within a mylle to them; there are some merchants in it but they conceave of no great value.

This is the trew accompt of the condition of the said burgh, given up, upon oath, by George Simsone, towne clerk, to the saids two visitors, the eighteen day of Aprile 1692 years, and subscrivit be him. *Sic subscribitur:* Geo. Simpsone, clerk.

CULLEN.

BURGH OF CULLEN.

Cullen the first day of September 1691. The magistrats and toun councill of Cullen haveing mett, and haveing taken to ther consideratione the rent, revenew, and comon good of the burgh, that they might [make] a just and trew report of the same to John Muir, provost of Air, and Mr James Smolet, provost of Dumbartoune, commissionat by the royall borrowes, for surveyeing the trade, comon good, and state of the haill royall burghs of the kingdome, after con-

sideration of ther records, the accompts of thir severall yeares bygone that have been made by the theasaurers, doe find that ther few dutyes, comon grass, and other casualities and rents are as followes:

Accompt of the few deuties and farret maills of the burgh of Cullen.

	LIB.	S.	D.
Imprimis, the Earle of Findlater payes	16	15	0
Item, Burdsbank	51	19	6
Item, James Lairty of Tochieneill	8	8	6
Item, Mr Alexander Ogilvies successors for Preistfeild	3	4	2
Item, James Howie for Taillers Ruid	0	4	4
Item, William Lawties mortified lands	3	4	2
Item, William Strachan for ane boll in the old milne	1	3	4
Item, William Gordon of Forskain for Crowats green, castle, and Portnoikies	13	6	8
Item, William Duff for orchyeard and Downies croft	0	12	0
Item, Patrick Sanders for his forehouse	0	6	0
Item, Muldavit for Auchinhall	0	12	0
Item, John Lorimer for Dowcroft	0	1	0
Item, William Hall for his kilbarne	0	2	0
Item, Thomas Andersone for the walk miln	10	13	4
Item, William Ord for place grein	0	4	0
Item, Alexander Raffin for his hous and riggs	8	0	0
Item, the custome of the boats	5	0	0
Item, Richard Ord for his house	0	3	4
Item, Elspeth Raffin for hir house	1	6	8
Item, James Shand for his house	0	13	4
Item, Janet Cuthbert for her house	0	13	4
Item, for the towns mony grass	24	0	0
	150	12	8

Accompt of the publict burdens and debts resting be the burgh of Cullen.

Item, for the burghs equei	34	0	0
Item, to the minister	40	0	0
Item, to the schoollmaster	13	6	8
Item, to the townes clerk	24	0	0
Item, to the officers fies	18	0	0
Item, to the drumer	10	0	0
Item, to incident chairges yearly and to ther advocats and agent for manageing ther affairs	60	0	0
Item, for postage of ther cess yeirly	24	0	0
Item, resting by the burgh to Mr James Lorimer by bond of principall and anwall rents	40	0	0

	lib.	s.	d.
Item, by the burgh oweing for borrow dewes and agents fies .	48	0	0
Item, for ther commissionars charges (*blank*) . . .			
	311	6	8

The veritie of the above writtin accompt of charge and dischairge is attested by us wndersubscryveing. *Sic subscribitur:* Findlater; John Baird, baillie; An. Craick, clk.

Burgh of Lauder.

Lauder. Lauder, the eighteen day of Aprile j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie two yeares. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, bailly of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl royall burghs be south and west Forth, Alexander Murray, present baillie of the said burgh, with Charles Lauder, clerk of the same, and gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good as followes:

1. First article, answered that the visitors haveing exactly considered the theasaurer books of the said burgh from Michaelmes 1686 to Michaelmes 1691 inclusive, being fyve years, they find, *comunibus annis*, the comon good therof to extend to 575 lib. 17s. 4d. and that the said towne will be presently indebted in the sowme of 1200 lib. or therby of principall sowmes and anwall rents preceeding the dait heirof.

2. Second article, answered that ther was 500 marks mortified be George Jolly in Edinburgh, the annwall rent quherof is payed punctwally by the toun to the schooll master for mantaineing of poor schoolars conform to the will of the mortifier, to the best of ther knowledge, and that they have no other mortificatione belonging to the toun or councill.

3. Third article, answered they are nowayes concerned therin.

4. Nor the fourth article.

5. Fyfth article, answered that the saids magistrats have produced fyve years theasaurer bookes conforme to the ansuer to the first article, and also have produced the eiquies which amounts yearly with the clerks fies and drink monie to 14 lib. Scots or therby, both which have been considered by the saides visitors.

6. Sixt article, answered to the first pairt therof they have no forraigne trade nor inland; and as to the second that they vent and consum yeirly ane tunn and ane half of wine, seck and brandie; and to the third they will consum weekly four bolls and thrie firlotts or therby of malt.

7. Seaventh article, answered they have neither ship, bark or boat belonging to them as haveing no sea port.

8. Eight article, answered that they are not owners nor pairtners of any shipe or barks belonging to any burgh royall of barronie or regality.

9. Nynth article, answered that ther cess is payd by taxatione on ther inhabitants of the burgh, borrow reeds, and acres therto belonging.

10. Tenth article, answered that the town payes no pairt of the ministers stipend, and that the schoolmaster, the publict servants and publict works of the said burgh are all payed and mantained out of the comon good.

11. Elleaventh article, answered by the tenth.

12. Twelth article, answered that the houses of the toun are all possest by ther herretors who inhabit the same, save some few cottar houses that pay about four pound yearly a piece, and that there are two or three of the best houses pay 10, 12 or 14 lib. Scots yearly a piece, and that they can give no accompt of ther land rent in gross nor have they any stranger inhabitants.

13. Thretteen article, answered that they have fyve yeirly fairs and that each of them containoweth only the space of one day, the wholl customes therof is a pairt of ther comon good and accordinglie soe stated in the first article.

14. Fourteen article, answered that there are no unfree burghs of barronie or regality within ther precinct, save only Dunce, Haymouth, Carelistream, and Coldinghame, the trade whereof they reckon to be verie inconsiderable, and as to the state of the toune and rent of ther houses they can give no particular accompt.

This is the trew accompt of the said towns patrimonie and state of ther burgh in answer to the above writtin articles, given up upon oath be the saids baillie and clerk, wndersubscryveing, to the saides visitors, day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* A. Murray, baillie; Ch. Lauder, clk.

BURGH OF KILRENNIE.

Accompt of the comon good of the toun of Kilrennie.

The customes of their fair betuixt 20 and 26 lib. yearly.

The count of ther debts to the kirk session with about tuentie years anwall rent . . . . . 400 marks.

Also to the poor seamen . . . . . 300 marks.

Item, to Mr Robert Cleiland . . . . . 48 lib.

At Kilrennie, this seaventeenth day of September j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie one yeares. Wee the magistrats and toun clerk doth testifie the truth of the above said accompt, creditor and debitor, and the differ betuixt the two wee cess the inhabitants for the samen at convenient tymes. *Sic subscribitur:* William Smith, baillie, James Peacock, baillie, Da. Sympsone, clk.

BURGH OF ANNAN.

At Dumfreise the twenty third day of Aprill j^{m} vj^{c} nyntie two years. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrows for visiting the wholl burghs royall be west and south the river of Forth, the present theasaurer and clerk of the burgh of Annan, the rest of the magistrats being either indis-

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. ANNAN.

posed or absent, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimony and comon good, together with ane answer to the said visitors instructions as follows :—

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good will amount to about 600 marks or therby, *comunibus annis*, and that ther debts will be betuixt 5 or 6000 marks of principall quhich is resting be the toune be bonds, acts of councill and precepts.

2. Second article, answered they have no mortificationes belonging to them.

3 article, they are not concerned therein.

4 article, they are not concerned therein.

5 article, answered that they have no theasaurers books nor ever hade any, and that ther eiquies, besides ther clerks dewes and other casualties, amounts to 6 lib. Scots.

6 article, answered that they have neither forraigne nor inland trade and that they hade no wine nor brandie vented within ther toun these fyve years bygone except one hogshead of each, and that to the best of ther knowledge they vent and consume about three bolls of malt, Lithgow measour, weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships, barks or boats belonging to them, except one ferrie boat over the water of Annan, which payes three pund sterline yearly and is a pairt of there comon good as in the answer to the first article.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not owners or pairtners of any ships or barks belonging either to burghs royall or regality or barronie and that they have no trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed out of the comon good these 15 yeirs bygone by reason of the poverty of the inhabitants except one year that the inhabitants were taxed therfor.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered there ministers stipend is payed out of the teynds of the wholl paroch and that ther precenter and all other publict servants are payed out of the comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that they uphold a fourth pairt of there church out of there comon good and that all other ther publict works are mantainit out of the same.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the rents of their houses will amount only tuixt twenty and four pounds yearly.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have only two fairs yearly and that the same are only of one dayes containwance and that the customes therof are reckoned a pairt of there comon good and are most inconsiderable in respect of some fairs keept by burghs of barronie circumjacent.

14. As to the fourteen article, it is answered that they have burghs of barronie and regalitie, particularly Lockerby, Eckellfechell, Daltoun, and Aplegirth, which are verie prejudiciall to them, and have taken all there trade from

them, a more particular accompt whereof ther commissioner shall represent to the nixt convention of borrowes.

This is the trew accompt of the patrimonie, comon good, and state of the said burgh of Annan, with the abovementioned answers which are given up, upon oath, by the said theasaurer and towne clerk of the said burgh, the rest of the magistrats being either indisposed or absent, who have subscryved the samen befor the saides visitors day and dait forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Edward Johnstoun, Jo. Murray, clerk.

ANNAN.

BURGH OF LOCHMABEN.

LOCHMABEN.

At Dumfreise, the twenty third day of Aprill j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two yeares. Compeared befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissioners appointed be the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl burghs royall be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats of Lochmaben, who gave in ane accompt of their patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the saides instructiones as followes :—

1. As to the first article, its answered that ther comon good amounts to fourty pownds Scots, *comunibus annis*, and that they have no debt.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they are not concerned in this, haveing no seaport.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they never hade any theasaurers bookes, and that ther comon good is stated in ther compt books, and that ther eiquies, etc., extends to 10 lib. Scots.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that [they have] neither forraigne nor inland trade, lyeing at a great distance from any seaport, and that they vent no French wines, seck or brandy, and that they consume about fyve firlotts of malt, Lithgow measour, weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships, barks or boats belonging to them.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not owners nor pairtners belonging either to burghs royall of regalitie or barronie, and that they have no trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a taxation on ther inhabitants and herretors of ther houses and borrow acres.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther ministers stipend is payed out of the teinds of the lands belonging to the burgh and parish, and that the schoolmaster is payed by the heretors of the paroch and all other ther publict servants are payed out of the comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that they have no publict works to mantain.

APPENDIX III.
REPORTS, 1692.
LOCHMABEN.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that the greatest pairt of ther houses are uninhabited and that the rents therof are from foure pound to twentie pownds and that they have no stranger inhabitants in ther burgh.

13. As to the threttein article, it is answered that they have neither yearly nor weekly marcats since the erection of the burghs of barronies and regalities, but that they hade formerly three fairs, and that ther customes would amount to 30 lib.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that there are sewerall burghs of barronie and regality within ther precinct, viz., Moffat, Locharby, Applegirth, Achilfechin, Daltoun, Riwan and Durnoch, which are prejudiciall to there trade and publict fairs and hath occasioned a totall decay amongst them.

This is the trew accompt of the stat and comon good of the said burgh of Lochmaben, in answer to the abovewrittin articles, which are given up by the provost and baillies of the said burgh, ther towne clerk being absent, wndersubscryveing, to the saids visitors, day, dait and place forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Alexr. Johnstoun, provost, Thomas Johnstoun, baillie. Nota, Thomas Johnstoun, the other baillie cannot subscrvye.

SANQUHAR.

BURGH OF SANQUHAR.

At Dumfreise, the twentie third day of Aprill j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two years. Compeired James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, bailly of Aberdeen, commissionars appoynted by the royall borrowes for visiting the wholl burghs royall be south and west the river of Forth, the present magistrats of the burgh of Sanchar, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, with ther answer to the saides visitors instructions as followes :—

1. First article, answered that ther comon good amounts only to fourteen pound four shillings and eight pennies Scots and that ther debts amounts to two hundreth pound Scots of principall.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortificationes.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therein.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they are not concerned therin, haveing no seaport.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they have theasaurers bookes, ther comon good being soe inconsiderable, and that ther eiquies extends yearly with ther clerks dewes and other casualities to fourteen pounds.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that they have no forraigne trade, and that their inland trade consists only of some few sheeps skins, butter and cheese, and few merchants goodes from Edinburgh, and that they vent no French wynes nor seck but a little brandie, and that they consume about two bolls of malt weekly.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have no ships, barks or boats belonging to them.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they neither are owners nor

pairtners of ships belonging either to burghs royall, of regality or barronie, nor are they concerned in trade with unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that they pay cess by a taxation on ther inhabitants for ther houses and borrow acres. SANQUHAR.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther minister is payed out of the teynds of the paroch wherof ther land payes a pairt effeirand to ther teind; ther schoollmaster is mantained according to the number of schoolars by weekly intertainment from ther respective parents, besides twelve pound yearly of fie laid on by stent on ther lands; the rest of the publict servants are payed by stent on ther inhabitants.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are mantainit by tax on themselves.

12. As to the twelth article, its answered that the rest of ther houses will be of rent betuixt fourty and fyfty shillings Scots inclusive; no strangers in ther burgh.

13. As to the thretteenth article, it is answered that they have thrie yearly fairs of one dayes containwance, and that ther customes are contained in ther comon good as in the first article.

14. As to the fourteen article, it is answered that they are surrounded with burghs of barronie and regality whois retaill of staple goodes destroyes totally ther trade.

This is the trew accompt of the toun of Sanquhars patrimonie and comon good in answer to the above writtin queries which are given up, upon oath, by the saids undersubscryveing to the saides visitors day and date forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Ro. Park, baillie, Alex. Creitchtoune, baillie.

BURGH OF DINGWALL.

DINGWALL.

Ane trew accompt and representatione of the circumstance and condition of the burgh of Dingwall, faithfullie given up and subscrived be the magistrats therof to the commissionars appointed be the royall borrowes to visit the conditione of the northern burghs of this kingdome.

Imprimis, that the said burgh hes no kind of publict good belonging to it, by reasone ther predecessores did few and sell the litle thing they hade many years for payment of ther publict debts, soe that all that now remains is only twenty nyne poundes Scots of few deuties, wherof the toun clerk gets twenty pounds yearly of sallary.

2. Their was never any mortificatione within the said burgh.

3. The said burgh hes no trade, by reason there is not a man amongst [them] of that stock as to ventur abroad, soe that anything they are able to vent is bought from the adjacent burghs, Invernes and Elgine, nor is ther any hopes that ther can be any trading in the said burgh by reasone of the burghs of barronie and regality erected about it, such as the burgh of barronie of Alnes, within sex myles be east it, the burgh of barrony of Ochterneid belonging to the Visecount

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. DINGWALL.

of Tarbat within two mylls be west it, the burgh of barronie of Contan belonging to Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coull within three mylls be west it, (which burgh of Contan intercepts all the trade the said burgh wes wont to have with the highlanders, the burgh of barronie of Bewlie belonging to the lord Lovat within four mylls south west of it, the burgh of barronie of Redcastle belonging to the laird of Redcastle within three mylls be south it, and the burgh of barronie of Coulbockie belonging to the laird of Findon within two mylls south east of it, everie one of which burghs except that of Ochterneeds have for the tyme ther shopes and vent als much comodity as the burgh of Dingwall.

4. The said burgh hes no tolbooth nor bridge nor are they able to build any; upon all which accompts the herretors and inhabitants are obleidged to mantain the liberty of the burgh and forced to stent themselves and ther land for payment of ther cess, outtreiking of a commissioner to the parliament, conventiones of esteats and borrowes, ther eiquies and missive dewes, to pay the maill of ane house hyred for a tolbooth and a stipend to ther schoolmaster and to defray all other contingencies.

5. The said burgh hes no publict debt, because they will not get credit, ther being no visible way how creditors could be payed by ther publict; and, lastly, this being the conditione of the said burgh it is visible they most of necessity quyt and resigne ther priviledges unless the royall borrowes fall upon some way for ther support, which the magistrats and councill humblie intreat the saids commissionars may represent to the royall borrowes at ther first meeting, especiallie for ane ease to them in the taxt roll, without which it may easily appear that it is impossible for them to send a commissioner to either parliament or conventione. In testimonie wherof, subscrived at Dingwall, the last day of August j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie one yeares. *Sic subscribitur:* Ronald Bayne, provost; Don. Dingwall, baillie; Ken. Mackenzie, baillie; Jo. Cameron, clerk.

BURGH OF QUEENSFERRY.

QUEENSFERRY.

Edinburgh, the seaventeen day of May j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie two yeares. Compeired befor James Fletcher, provost of Dundie, and Alexander Walker, baillie of Aberdeen, commissionars appointed be the royall borrows for visiting the wholl royall burghs be west and south the river of Forth, the present bailly of the burgh of Queensferrie, the rest of the magistrats and toun clerk being absent, who gave in ane accompt of ther patrimonie and comon good, together with ane answer to the rest of the saids visitors instructiones as followes:

1. As to the first article, it is answered that ther comon good extends to two hundreth fyfteen pownd nine shillings and two pence Scots and they are oweing two hundreth marks of principall by bond.

2. As to the second article, it is answered that they have no mortifications belonging to them.

3. As to the third article, it is answered that they are not concerned therin.

4. As to the fourth article, it is answered that they are not concerned therin haveing a bay for ther harbour.

5. As to the fyfth article, it is answered that they keep no theasaurers books but adjust ther accompts annwally and ther charge and discharge is for the most pairt equall; ther exchequer eiquies is with clerks and other dewes the sowme of thretteen pounds Scots which is annwally payed.

6. As to the sixt article, it is answered that ther export is verie inconsiderable, consisting mostly of coalls which the merchants of Edinburgh and others layes in for ther oun accompt; ther import consists of some Norway trade and some from Hòlland, as the masters and others have occatione to imploy ther stocks, the particular value wherof they cannot condescend on; and ther inland trade and retaill is also very inconsiderable; and that [for] three yeares bygone they have hade no consumptione of French wines and not above a tunn yearly for the two yeares preceeding these, and a verie small and inconsiderable quantity of seck or brandie, and that they cannot condescend on ther consumptione of malt in regaird they have no milns nor impost upon ale.

7. As to the seaventh article, it is answered that they have seaven ships belonging to them betuixt ane hundreth and ane hunder and twenty tunns the piece, the value of which wee cannot condescend on, and ane open boat for carrieing coalls and stone, which ships are of the most pairt imployed by the merchants of Edinburgh.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they [have] two sixteen pairts of two ships the masters wherof are burgars of a royall burgh and no other wayes concerned in trade with any unfree burghs.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by tax on ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that ther ministers locall stipend is four hundreth marks, which is payed by taxatione and pew mailles, and ther schoolmaster hath fourtie pound out of the comon good and twelve pound by a mortificatione; all other ther publict servants are payed out of ther comon good.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works are supported out of the touns comon good save ther church which is mantained out of its own pious revenewes.

12. As to the twelth article, it is answered that there are many of ther houses unhabited, and a full rentall of them shall be given in by ther commissioner to the nixt conventione of borrowes, and that they have no stranger inhabitants.

13. As to the thretteen article, it is answered that they have one yearly fair of one dayes containwance and tuo weekly marcats whose customes are inconsiderable and stated as pairt of ther comon good in answer to the first article.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. QUEENSFERRY.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have no precinct without themselves.

15. As to the fyfteenth article, it is answered that ther burgers freedomes, fynes, &c. are inconsiderable and reckoned as pairt of ther comon good.

This is the trew accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Queensferrie, in answer to the above mentioned instructiones, as it is given up by the said baillie, undersubscryveing, who declairs the same to be the authentick relatione to the best of his knowledge, to the saids visitors, day and date forsaid. *Sic subscribitur:* Jo. Kinnaird, baillie.

Nota. Its to be remembered that ther is omitted of the first article of the debts ten pounds Scots they pay yearly to the burgh of Linlithgow. As also its to be remembered that the commissionars charges to parliaments, conventiones of borrows, transporting of shouldiers and other contingencies lyes heavie on them and is much more then ther comon good will discharge.

BURGH OF FORTROSE.

FORTROSE.

Information by the magistrats and clerk of the united burghs of Fortrose and Rosemarky, by act of parliament and the Kings chartour, under the great seall, of old and lately ratified in parliament, anno 1661 yeares, now both called be the said chartour and ratificatione the burgh of Fortrose, and which as to Fortrose was called the chanonrie of Ross, being the bishop and chanons seat, to the commissionars now at Invernes, appointed be the honourable members and commissionars of the haill royall borrowes of the kingdome of Scotland for visiting the northern borrowes and takeing ane account of ther comon good, debts and mortificationes (and of ther trade if any were) and be the saids visitors sua appointed to be reported to the next general conventione of the borrowes to meet and sitt at the burgh of Dundie.

1. The said burgh of Fortrose (united *ut supra*) have no trade by merchandizeing nor never hade that wee know or can learne of, being but a litle village and formerly a kirk toune or the bishop and chanons seatt, the few cramers or chopkeepers therin did not heirtofor nor does not now export or import any merchant vair, victwall, or any thing els of whatsomever kynd, be sea or land, that we know or can hear of, except some litle salt, iron, litts, spices, and such small comodities that the saids few merchants bring from Invernes, Findhorne, and Elgin; and they are not able to doe otherwayes, for, to the best of our skill and knowledge, these in Fortrose called merchants are not intrinsique value, including ther chops and what they have in them, worth tuo hundreth pownd sterlin, and tuixt the one of the year and the other and tuixt ther credit and stock they doe not vair and buy to the extent and value of the said sowme, ther being but four of them in number, and all the rest of the inhabitants are but shoo makers, skinners, wivers, taillors and husbandmen laboureing the ground, and suchlyck poor

men and trades, whose poverty wee are ashamed to inform; and for further clearing of thus the informers appeall to the good town and magistrats of Invernes ther nixt neighbours.

2do As to comon good, the burgh of Fortrose, of old called the chanonrie of Ross, have no comon good under the sunn, in less or more, to walk and work upon, except the custome of their tuo marcats which some years yields ane hundreth marks effectwally and no more and some years less, and of that the magistrats gives ther clerk thretie pownd Scots of fie and fourtie pownd to their schoolmaster, and when the custome mony is deffective any year for payment of the said two what is wanting to them, with their officers fies, is imposed on the inhabitants, together with the Kings cess, per annum, by way of stent. The said burgh, of old called the chanonrie, have no lands, houses or yeards holden *in libero burgagio de regie* or few of the magistrats therof *sed e contra* all holden of the seea, bishops and channons of Ross, when existing, and now of ther Majesties *jure corone*, and who get the haill few deuties, &c., dew and payable furth of these lands, houses and yairds, and it was ever soe since the foundatione of the bishoprick and by all appearance will hold soe, by which the poor burgh hes no help that way by way of the comon good; and when cess, outrig of whatsomever kynd, the dewes of royall burrowes and missives dewes and other publict contingencies occurrs to be payed, there is no way for it but allwayes to stent the inhabitants by the pole or *pro capita*, which as to tymes past and upon the accompt the heavie burdenes that occurred, made sixteen families if not more remove of the place to the countrey, being brock, and the rest lyck to go that way for that same cause, and which may be evidently seen by the stent roll imposed for payment of the present Lambas cess heirwith sent to the saids visitors to be seen and considered, wherein there are several persons stented that lyve on the charitie of the church and other good people, whereof wee are ashamed to condescend. As to the old burgh of Rosemarky, its trew that ther is lands and houses there holden *in libero burgagio de regie* to the extent of three or four hunder pounds Scots, highly racked, and that valued rent is incorporat with the shyre and payes in there cess with them anwally and did soe since the year 1638 that the troubles beginne and burdens laid on be way of monethly maintainance and cess, and by all appearance will containow soe, by which the poor united burghs have no help that no not of litle of their own lands since the shire keeps be it and maks the cess practicable in payment *majori vj*, which in good Scots terms may be called quartering, and not only in cess but in all other publict outrique, such as leavies to horse and foot, corne and strae, &c., since the poor burgh is not in conditione because off their poverty to daker with the shire for remead. And in that towne of Rosemarkie wherein there is no merchant or trafficquer in that station and but few inhabitants, such as suttarmen, husbandmen and wyvers, they allwayes [stent] the inhabitants for ther proportione of the said cess and all publict burdenes as those in chanonrie doe on all occasiones and as their stent roll sent to the visitors will sufficiently clear.

APPENDIX III. REPORTS, 1692. FORTROSS.

3. The magistrats and councill of the saids united burghs owes debt upon the publict accompt of the place, there is no doubt of it, for they owe and are resting upon that head eight hunder pound Scots if not more and no way wnder heaven to pay it unless the inhabitants be stented, which dare not be medled with in this junctur of tyme for fear the most of them runn away, and therfor as that upon annwallrent payeing in hopes of better tymes, and that the honourable royall borrowes will have pittie on the poor place and take their conditione wnder consideratione by giveing help one way and easeing of them as to their present proportion in the taxt roll, otherwayes there willbe noe magistracie heir, the people and inhabitants will runn away and no face of a burgh kept up at Fortross, by all appearance ; and [it has been] with great difficulty thir severall years past that magistrats was gott to wndergo that charge, and for fear of the chairge and trouble occurreing thereby severalls that were fittest to undergoe the office left the place and went to leive in the countrey *ut supra*.

4to The united burghs of chanonrie and Fortross have no mortificationes nor ever bade. As to monie victwall or any else belonging to them or at the disposall of the magistrats, except the annwallrents of 1000 marks left by the late Alexander Mackenzie of Coull to the poor of chanonrie and be the magistrats there for the tyme to be managed and distributed for the end mortified, its trew that the lait Barbara countes dowager of Seaforth mortified ane chalder victwall yeirly, and the lait Bishop Patersone of Ross the annwall rent of fyve hundreth marks yearly also to the poor of chanonrie, and both mortifiers left the minister and elders, including the magistrates of chanonrie, for the pairt of Bishop Patersone, to be patrons, managers and distributors of the said mortified victwall and mony, and these mortificationes being sacred in themselves cannot be any help to the burgh *sed e contra* most be applyed for the end and use proposed and mortified and noe other way.

5. Upon all these considerationes the burgh and inhabitants thereof being soe mean and miserable and their condition deplorable, could not heirtofoir give punctwall attendance to parliaments, conventions of esteats, or to the convention of the royall borrowes, aither particular or generall, yeit they sent to severall parliaments and conventions of lait for resigning ther priviledges as a burgh and for getting themselves expunged as a burgh royall, to be freed and quyt of ther unsupportable trouble and burdens, though heirtofore their intention took no effect, but if now the royall borrowes doe not considder the condition of the said place and inhabitants thereof as to all what [is] said, and therein give them help and ease, the poor burgh will represent itself when occasione offers and resigne *ut supra*, and if not accepted, certainly we think there will be no magistrats in Fortross and all the people or most of them will leave the place and cannot otherwayes doe *rebus ut nunc stantibus*.

Fortrose, the twentie nynth day of August, j^m^ vj^c^ and nyntie one yeares what [is] represented in this sheet of peaper and fyve articles sett downe therin in

behalf of the said burgh and inhabitants therof, is attested to be of verity by us. *Sic subscribitur:* R. Innes, provost; Alexr. Speidieman, baillie; Androw Millar, baillie; David MacCulloch, counseller; Da. Moniepennie, counciller; Geo. Graham, counciller; Mr Hugh Dallas, clk.

Burgh of Kintoir.

Ane accompt of the comon good of the burgh of Kintoir.

Imprimis, the said burgh hes of comon good payed to them, yeirly, 40 lib. Scots.

Dischairge of the comon good.

Imprimis, ther is payed out of the said soume to the schoollmaster the soume of 20 lib. yeirly.

Item, to the clerk the sowme of twelve pound yeirly.

Item, there is paid for mantainence of the bridge and for defending the river of Done of the toun, yeirly, the sowme of eight powndes.

The said burgh hes no mortifications nor marcats.

Item, the said burgh hes no trade in merchandizeing, and that all impositiones that are laid upon the said burgh is payed of the land rent in the said burgh.

Debts resting be the said burgh.

Imprimis, the said burgh is justly resting to the Earle of Kintoir the sowme of 1000 lib. debursed be him upon the towns accompt.

Item, ther is resting be the same burgh to sewerall persones the sowme of 800 marks Scots which they borrowed to repair the church which wes altogether ruinous.

Item, for repairing of the schoolhouse the sowme of ane hundreth marks Scots monie.

In testimonie of the verity of the haill premissis, thir presents are subscrivit be one of the baillies and towne clerk of the said burgh, at Kintoir, the [*blank*] day of [*blank*] j^{m} vj^{c} and nynty one yeares. *Sic subscribitur:* Rob. Bruce, baillie; Mr G. Scot, baillie and clerk.

Burgh of Innerurie.

At Innerurie, the fifth day of September j^{m} vj^{c} and nyntie one yeares.

The accompt of the comon good and debts of the towne of Innerurie given up to the visitors appointed be the royall borrowes, viz.

The few deuties of the said burgh	73	6	8
The custome of ther fairs is	4	0	0
Discharge.			
To the clerk	6	13	4
To the schoolmaster and for precenter	42	0	0
Item, to the laird of Craigiewar of few for teynds yearly .	1	6	8
Item, for mantaineing the bulwork to keep off the river of Don from the church	20	0	0

or ferrie boats, only four small boats they used to imploy in ther herring fishing, since the decay whereof they have lyen useless; and that they have no trade for shiping, the inhabitants being poor.

8. As to the eight article, it is answered that they are not owners nor pairtners of any ships or barks belonging to burghs royall, of regality or barronie, nor are they concerned in matter of trade with unfree burghes.

9. As to the nynth article, it is answered that ther cess is payed by a tax on ther inhabitants.

10. As to the tenth article, it is answered that they pay yearly to their minister four hundreth markes and four bolls of meall, for which ther inhabitants are taxed, and that the schoolmaster and precenter hath two hundreth marks yeirly out of ther comon good, and that all other there publict servants are payed by a taxation on their inhabitants.

11. As to the elleaventh article, it is answered that all ther publict works, commissioners charges to parliament and conventiones, and others contained in the said article, are all payed and mantainit by a tax on ther inhabitants.

12. As to the twelth article, that the two pairts of the tenements of the towne belongs to herretors in the countrey, and that the rent of ther houses will extend tuixt thretie pownd and fourtie shillinges Scots, and that they have no stranger inhabitants.

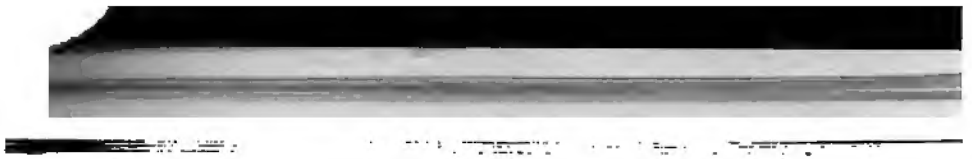
13. As to the thretteenth article, it is answered that they have two yearly fairs, each of one dayes containwance, and that they [have] a weekly flesh marcat from the first of November to the first of January and no longer, and that the customes of both are a pairt of their comon good and soe stated in answer to there first article.

14. As to the fourteenth article, it is answered that they have only one burgh of barronie within ther precinct, called Portpatrick, which does nowayes prejudge them as haveing noe trade.

15. As to the fyfteen article, it is answered that they have no casuall comon good.

This is the trew accompt of the state and conditione of the said burgh of Stanraer, in answer to the abovewrittin instructions, as it is given up, upon oath, by the saides magistrats and towne clerk of the said burgh to the saides visitors, day and dait forsaid. Witness ther subscriptions of thir presents. *Sic subscribitur:* Pa. Paterson, provost; Pat. Kennedie, baillie; Hervie, baillie; J. Patersone, clerk.

NOTE OF THE BRUGHS THAT WERE NOT VISITED.

The brugh of Week in Cathnes.
The brugh of Dornock in Sutherland.
The brugh of Kirkwall in Orkney.
The brugh of Bervie in Mernes.
The brugh of Galoway

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